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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

CAPT. C. H. B. GRANT.

VOLUME LVII.

SESSION 1936–1937.

LONDON:

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1937.

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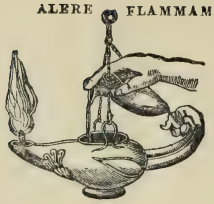

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PREFACE.

The number of attendances during the past Session was :— 373 members, 29 members of the B O. U., and 146 guests— a total of 548.

Mr. G. M. Mathews, Chairman of the Club, gave his annual address at the November Meeting, dealing with general matters, and a Regional Review from October 1935 to October 1936.

Among the many interesting communications and exhibits given during the Session were—Mr. G. L. Bates's interesting notes on birds collected in Arabia by Mr. Philby ; Mr. P. F. Bunyard's exhibition of eggs from Alberta ; Dr. James P. Chapin's exhibition of the types of the Congo Peafowl ; Mr. J. Delacour's visit to North America ; Mr. H. A. Gilbert's remarks on British Duck decoys ; the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain on the Carrion- and Hooded Crows ; Mr. N. B. Kinnear on type-specimens of British birds ; Mr. R. D. Macdonald on the occurrence of the Levant Sparrow-Hawk in the Sudan ; Mr. A. J. Marshall's trip to New Guinea ; and Mr. G. Waterston on the occurrence of the Booted Warbler in the British Isles.

Films and slides were shown by—Mr. A. Buxton, films of Pochard, Water-Rail, and Sparrow-Hawk ; Mr. J. G. Mavrogordato, film of a tame Goshawk ; Mr. A. S. Phillips, film of breeding birds at their nests ; Mr. O. G. Pike, film of Farne Island birds ; Dr. Finn Salomonsen, film of Greenland ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman, slides of Marocco ; Mr. F. J. F. Barrington, slides of Tunisia ; the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, slides of Marocco and western Algeria ; and Dr. W. Rowan. slides of the bird-life of Alberta and its "muskegs."

New forms were described by—Dr. D. A. Bannerman, Mr. G. L. Bates, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, Mr. P. A. Clancey, Mr. J. Delacour, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, the Marquess Hachisuka, Dr. J. M. Harrison, Mr. T. H. Harrisson, Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, Mr. A. J. Marshall, Mr. G. M. Mathews, Dr. E. Mayr, Col. R. Meinertzhagen, Prof. O. Neumann, Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham, the Lord Rothschild, Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, Mr. J. Vincent, and Mr. C. M. N. White.

The Club entertained as distinguished guests—Mr. A. J. Marshall, Dr. W. Rowan, and Dr. Finn Salomonsen.

CLAUDE H. B. GRANT,
Editor.

London, July 1937.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(Founded October 5, 1892.)

TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

RULES.

(*As amended, October* 9, 1935.)

Management.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term ; a Vice-Chairman, who shall serve for one year, and who shall not be eligible for the next year ; an Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term ; a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each be elected for a term of one year, but who shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place ; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member

wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

II. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

Subscriptions.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Any Member who resigns his Membership on going abroad may be readmitted without payment of a further Entrance Fee at the Committee's discretion.

Meetings.

V. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but

should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VI. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

Introduction of Visitors.

VIII. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

'Bulletin' of the Club.

IX. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the 'Bulletin,' but if they desire to exercise this privilege they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the 'Bulletin' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

X. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the 'Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

Alteration and Repeal of Rules.

XI. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

COMMITTEE, 1936–1937.

G. M. Mathews, *Chairman*. Elected 1935.
D. Seth-Smith, *Vice-Chairman*. Elected 1936.
Capt. C. H. B. Grant, *Editor*. Elected 1935.
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Hon. Secretary*. Elected 1935.
Major A. G. L. Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer*. Elected 1936.
Col. A. E. Hamerton. Elected 1934.
J. H. McNeile. Elected 1935.
W. B. Alexander. Elected 1936.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed. Elected 1936.

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club, Past and Present.

Chairmen.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.	1892–1913.
Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1913–1918.
W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–1927.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1927–1930.
Major S. S. Flower.	1930–1932.
D. A. Bannerman.	1932–1935.
G. M. Mathews.	1935–

Vice-Chairmen.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1930–1931.
W. L. Sclater.	1931–1932.
H. F. Witherby.	1932–1933.
G. M. Mathews.	1933–1934.
N. B. Kinnear.	1934–1935.
H. Whistler.	1935–1936.
D. Seth-Smith.	1936–1937.

Editors.

R. Bowdler Sharpe.	1892–1904.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.	1904–1914.
D. A. Bannerman.	1914–1915.
D. Seth-Smith.	1915–1920.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
N. B. Kinnear.	1925–1930.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1930–1935.
Captain C. H. B. Grant.	1935–

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers.

Howard Saunders.	1892–1899.
W. E. de Winton.	1899–1904.
H. F. Witherby.	1904–1914.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1914–1915.
C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby.	1915–1918.
D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–1929.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1929–1935.

Honorary Secretaries.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson.	1935–

Honorary Treasurers.

C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1935–1936.
Major A. G. L. Sladen.	1936–

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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Acland, Miss C. M. ; Walwood, Banstead, Surrey.

Alexander, H. G. ; 144 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Alexander, W. B. (*Committee*) ; Dept. of Zoology, University Museum, Oxford.

Aplin, Oliver Vernon ; Stonehill House, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.

Alymer, Commdr. E. A., R.N. ; Wyke Oliver, Preston, Dorset.

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Best, Miss M. G. S. ; Broadwater, Amport, Andover, Hants.

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Buxton, Anthony ; Horsey Hall, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk.

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Cave, Captain F. O. ; Stoner Hill, Petersfield, Hants.

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Clarke, Col. Stephenson Robert, C.B. ; Borde Hill, Cuckfield, Sussex.

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135 Sparrow, Col. R., C.M.G., D.S.O. ; The Lodge, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Essex.

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TAYLOR, Miss D. L.; Bellefields, Englefield Green, Surrey.

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TURNER, Miss E. L.; The Half Way Cottage, 13 Storey's Way, Cambridge.

TURTLE, LANCELOT J.; 17–21 Castle Place, Belfast.

150 TYRWHITT-DRAKE, Sir HUGH G.; Cobtree Manor, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent.

URQUHART, Capt. ALASTAIR, D.S.O.; Latimer Cottage, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

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WAITE, HERBERT WILLIAM; c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co., Ltd., Bombay, India.

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WARE, R.; Leafwood, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

WATT, Mrs. H. W. BOYD ; 90 Parliament Hill Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, N.W. 5.

WHISTLER, HUGH, F.L.S. ; Caldbec House, Battle, Sussex.

WHITE, CHARLES M. N. ; Park-View, Garstang Road, Broughton, near Preston, Lancs.

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WILLOUGHBY-ELLIS, H. ; Friary Hill, Weybridge, Surrey.

WISHART, E. E. ; Marsh Farm, Binsted, Arundel, Sussex.

WITHERBY, HARRY F., M.B.E. (*Chairman*, 1924–1927) ; Gracious Pond Farm, Chobham, near Woking, Surrey.

WITHERINTON, G. ; Sumner Plat, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

WOOD, CASEY A., M.D. ; c/o The Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

WORKMAN, WILLIAM HUGHES ; Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

WORMS, CHARLES DE ; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

Total number of Members 171

NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and those residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

LIST OF AUTHORS

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19 NOV 1936
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM
NAT. HIST.

No. CCCXCVIII.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-third Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, October 14, 1936.

Chairman : Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland; W. B. Alexander; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; Miss P. Barclay-Smith; F. J. F. Barrington; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham; G. Brown; P. F. Bunyard; Mrs. E. S. Charles; Hon. G. L. Charteris; H. P. O. Cleave; Major-Gen. Sir P. Z. Cox; A. Ezra; Miss J. M. Ferrier; Major S. S. Flower; H. A. Gilbert; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*); Dr. J. M. Harrison; Mrs. C. Hodgkin; P. A. D. Hollom; Lt.-Commdr. A. M. Hughes; Dr. K. Jordan; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; Dr. N. H. Joy; N. B. Kinnear; Miss E. P. Leach; Miss C. Longfield; Dr. G. Carmichael Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; J. H. McNeile; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; J. G. Mavrogordato; Dr. W. N. May; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; E. M. Nicholson; C. A. Norris; C. Oldham; B. B. Osmaston; C. W. G. Paulson; H. J. R. Pease; H. Leyborne Popham; Mrs. M. Priestley; W. L. Sclater; Major M. H. Simonds; Major A. G. Lambert Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*); Col. R. Sparrow; Miss D. L. Taylor; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson

(*Hon. Sec.*); Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. L. Turner; W. E. Wait; H. M. Waite; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt; H. Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. G. M. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U.:—Miss B. A. Carter; W. P. Lowe; R. E. Moreau; Lt.-Col. W. A. Payn.

Guests:—Mrs. D. A. Bannerman; W. K. Dods; N. B. Dyball; Mrs. S. S. Flower; Mrs. M. V. Gilbert; B. Harrisson; Mrs. B. Harrisson; N. J. Lied; Miss L. Lodge; Miss B. S. Lynes; Mrs. E. M. Manson-Bahr; Dr. P. H. Martin; Miss Maynard; Mrs. R. E. Moreau; W. H. Perrett; F. Pike; Miss P. Pittard; Miss Preston; Dr. W. Rowan; P. W. Sandeman; Mrs. Sclater; Commdr. R. M. Southern; Miss Steinthal; Mrs. A. L. Thomson; H. Boyd Watt; Mrs. Witherby.

Members of the Club, 62; Members of the B. O. U., 4; Guests, 26.

Annual General Meeting

Chairman: Mr. H. Whistler.

This was held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 6.15 p.m., before the Ordinary Meeting. The minutes of the Special General Meeting held on October 9, 1935, and the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, on the same date, were confirmed.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson then submitted his Secretary's Report. He said that the number of members showed a net decrease of six. He regretted to record the deaths of Mr. F. E. Blaauw, Lieut.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe, and Mr. J. Sladen Wing. Seven members had resigned, and one had been removed from the list under Rule IV. Five new members had joined the Club.

The usual meetings had been held. The total attendances were 550; this fell below the record of 603 established last year, but was still above the previous best of 539 in the year before. The report was approved.

Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed submitted his Treasurer's Report. The Financial Statement had been circulated and called for no special comment: the balance in hand was greater by some £34 than at the beginning of the year. The report was approved.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith was elected Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. H. Whistler, whose period of office terminated.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson was re-elected Hon. Secretary.

Major A. G. Lambert Sladen was elected Hon. Treasurer in place of Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed, who vacated that office. A vote of thanks to the retiring Treasurer was carried by acclamation.

Mr. W. B. Alexander and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed were elected members of the Committee in place of Mr. A. Ezra and Dr. J. M. Harrison.

The Secretary then reported that the Committee sought the opinion of the Club on a proposal that the meeting after the March dinner should be held at the house of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore. The use of the fine auditorium there and its projection apparatus could be obtained at small cost, and private 'buses would transport the company from the Rembrandt Hotel in a few minutes. This meeting was attended by increasingly large numbers, and was devoted to the exhibition of films and slides. Holding it in the hotel dining-room was unsatisfactory in various ways, involving considerable discomfort and difficulties as regards projection. On the other hand, there was some disadvantage in having the dinner and the meeting at different places. The change, if made, would be in the nature of an experiment, not necessarily to be repeated in subsequent years.

After discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved.

Committee, 1936–1937

Mr. G. M. Mathews, *Chairman* (elected 1935).
Mr. D. Seth-Smith, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1936).
Captain Claude H. B. Grant, *Editor* (elected 1935).
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1935).
Major A. G. Lambert Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1936).
Colonel A. E. Hamerton (elected 1934).
Mr. J. H. McNeile (elected 1935).
Mr. W. B. Alexander (elected 1936).
Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed (elected 1936).

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Financial Statement for the 12 *months September* 1, 1935, *to August* 31, 1936.

12 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1935.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
£	s.	d.							
			To Balance in Hand, September 1, 1935:—						
28	8	0	Cash at Bank, Current a/c	30	14	2			
650	0	0	Do. Deposit a/c	251	18	2			
			,, 500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank.	400	0	0			
	6	6	In Hands of Treasurer...		3	4			
							682	15	8
			,, Entrance Fees of 6 New						
4	0	0	Subscribers	6	0	0			
180	11	0	,, Subscriptions—168 Members	176	8	0			
1	1	0	,, Subscriptions in advance ...	3	3	0			
							185	11	0
33	11	11	,, Sales of 'Bulletin'.....				31	6	9
1	18	2	,, Bank Interest				1	5	1
£899	16	7					£900	18	6

12 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1935.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
£	s.	d.							
			By Printing and Distribution of Publications and 'Bulletin'						
149	3	5	389/397.....				119	8	10
14	17	0	,, Hire of Lanterns at Meetings				16	3	0
			,, H. B. Usher for compiling and arranging Index to						
5	5	10	'Bulletin' B. O. C., 1935–36.				5	5	8
			,, Miscellaneous Expenditure, including Audit Fee, Print-						
22	4	8	ing, Stationery, and Postages.				17	4	0
			,, British Trust for Ornithology:						
15	0	0	Donation.....				–	–	–
			,, Zoological Society of London: Donation to 'Zoological Re-						
10	10	0	cord' Fund.....				10	10	0
			,, R. N. Lockley: Donation to Skokholm Migrant Trap ...				15	0	0
			,, Balance in Hand, August 31, 1936:—						
30	14	2	Cash at Bank, Current a/c	62	3	5			
251	18	2	Do. Deposit a/c	253	3	3			
			,, 500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by						
400	0	0	Bank	400	0	0			
	3	4	In Hands of Treasurer ...	2	0	4			
							717	7	0
£899	16	7					£900	18	6

C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED, *Treasurer.*

We have compared the foregoing Statement with the Books and Vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the year ended August 31, 1936, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank and the holding of National Savings Certificates.

23 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 4.
September 2, 1936.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

After dinner, before the business of the Ordinary Meeting was begun, the chair was temporarily taken by the President of the British Ornithologists' Union, Mr. H. F. Witherby, who presented the Godman–Salvin Medal to Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes, C.B., C.M.G., in recognition of his distinguished ornithological work.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear announced that the President of the American Museum of Natural History had recently forwarded to the Director of the British Museum, through Dr. Leonard C. Sanford, the type-specimens of fifteen British and Irish subspecies from the Rothschild collection.

In his letter he says :—" Since the most important purpose that these specimens can serve is to be readily available to European, and particularly to British, ornithological students, the staff of our Department of Birds has felt that it would be helpful to the cause of science to return these fifteen specimens to England for permanent deposit in the British Museum. With these sentiments the President and Trustees of the American Museum heartily concur." Adding that :—" We hope that the Trustees of the British Museum may see fit to accept the specimens as a gift from our institution, and that their presence in the British Museum may prove of practical and lasting value to ornithology."

The specimens include thirteen types described by the late Dr. Hartert, one by that ornithologist and Mr. Witherby, and one by Dr. Hellmayr. The gift of fifteen types by one Museum to another must, I think, be unique in the history of science. I am sure all ornithologists here tonight will appreciate this generous act, not merely for the actual value of the specimens, but for the spirit of co-operation in which it is made.

Mr. F. J. F. Barrington showed slides of Tunisia, and made some remarks on that country and its bird-life.

Mr. David Bannerman showed a series of over fifty slides of Morocco, and gave an account of his experiences there last March, when he visited Tangier, Tetuan, Xauen in the Spanish Riff country, Fez, Meknés, Azrou in the Middle Atlas

(where snow was lying in the cedar forests at 6000 ft.), and Marrakesh. The most interesting slides were those of Xauen, where Rear-Admiral Lynes collected birds in 1923, a village in the Spanish zone where few ornithologists have set foot.

Mr. Bannerman described the birds which he had met with during the tour, among which may be mentioned the first record for Morocco of the Persian Bee-eater (*Merops persicus chrysocercus*), which was seen between Ouaumana and Khenifra, on the road from Marrakesh to Azrou; this was on March 26. On a reservoir of the Sultan's Garden at Marrakesh four Pochards (*Nyroca f. ferina*) were seen, and two little Grebes (*Podiceps ruficollis ruficollis*) on March 25 midst a large concourse of Tufted Duck (*Nyroca fuligula*) and Coots. Of migrants, the arrival of hundreds of Little Swifts (*Colletoptera affinis galilejensis*) was noted at Marrakesh between March 20 and 25, and Alpine Swifts (*Micropus melba tuneti*) were very numerous at the same place and on the same dates. These Alpine Swifts were equally common at Fez on March 28, but none were seen at Azrou on March 26. European Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) arrived in swarms at Marrakesh on March 22, and on following days were passing north. A marked migration of Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni naumanni*) was noted between Tangier and the Caves of Hercules, on the Tangier–Arzila road, on March 17, the birds passing north on a clear still day. House-Martins (*Delichon urbica*, probably *meridionalis*) were observed only once, at Marrakesh on March 26, and on March 21 at Marrakesh Chiffchaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Redstarts (*Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus*), Woodchat-Shrikes (*Lanius senator senator*), and White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*), and near the Oued el Abid on March 26 Woodlarks (*Lullula arborea*) were noted. A Nightingale (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*) was heard singing in the Momounia Hotel garden at Marrakesh on March 25. Sand-Martins were seen flying over the river at Tadla town on March 26, but as both *Riparia riparia riparia* and *Riparia paludicola mauritanica* occur in Morocco at this season, and we did not secure specimens, the record is of little value. One or the other was present in some numbers, and

was the only occasion that a member of this genus was seen throughout the tour.

As Vultures are exceedingly scarce in Morocco, and members of the Family Corvidæ, apart from the Raven, almost equally scarce, it may be worth recording the presence of *Neophron p. percnopterus* and the Moorish Magpie (*Pica pica mauritanica*), both of which were seen between Tadla and Khenifra, on the Marrakesh–Azrou road, and nowhere else on any part of the extensive route traversed. Red-rumped Swallows (*Hirundo daurica rufula*) were seen hawking along the battlements of the city walls at Marrakesh, and are known to nest in the vicinity in the Great Atlas Region.

Considering how scanty is the literature on Morocco, and how imperfectly the distribution, status, and dates of passage-migrants are known, it is hoped that the above records may be worth recording.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain showed a series of slides from Marocco and the Province of Oran, western Algeria, and made some remarks on the avifauna of these areas.

Lt.-Col. W. A. Payn also made some remarks on the birds of Tangier.

Messrs. Rudyard Boulton and Jack Vincent sent the following description of a new race of *Prinia* :—

Prinia flavicans bihe, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from typical *P. f. flavicans* (Vieillot, Enc. Meth. ii, p. 438, 1820 : Namaqualand, S. Africa) in having the upper parts distinctly darker, the pectoral band blacker, and the flanks not uniform in colour with the breast, but more greyish-olive. [The type and three specimens from Mulonde have been compared with a series from Bechuanaland.—R. B.]

Distribution.—The central plateau of Angola.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male collected by Rear-Admiral H. Lynes, C.B., C.M.G., and J. Vincent at

Vouga, 5800 ft., Bihé, Central Angola. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1931.12.21.94.

Measurements of the type.—Total length in flesh 145, wing 53·5, tail 61, culmen from base of skull 13, tarsus 22 mm.

Remarks.—This new race, which comes from the high plateau of the Bihé district in Central Angola, extends the range of the species to an area far removed from any previous record. The type-specimen had gonads subsiding after recent breeding, and was shot in short scrub at the edge of the large " bulubulu " prairies which are characteristic of the Angolan plateau. Bihé is pronounced " B–A."

Colours of the soft parts.—Irides pale raw sienna; bill black; feet ochreous flesh; claws darkish sepia.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following description of a new race of *Apalis* :—

Apalis thoracica youngi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Very similar to *Apalis thoracica murina* Reichenow, but differs from that race in the slaty-grey colour of the upper parts and the absence of the olive-yellow on the rump, abdomen, flanks, and crissum.

Distribution.—From Vipya to Nyankhowa, Northern Nyasaland.

Type.—Female collected by C. W. Benson at Vipya, 6000 ft., Northern Nyasaland, on May 8, 1935. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1935.10.9.5.

Measurement of the type.—Wing 52, culmen from base 15, tail 45, tarsus 21 mm.

Remarks.—Seven specimens measured and examined. Wing 48–52, tail 45–49, culmen from base 15, tarsus 21–22 mm. Two examples from Vipya have an indication of the olive-green coloration on the rump, abdomen, and thighs. It is important in this genus to compare specimens in similar plumage, as the colour of the head and back vary considerably according to abrasion and fading.

This race is named in honour of the Rev. W. P. Young, who sent the first examples to the Museum, but owing to the worn state of the plumage it was not possible to make any of his specimens the type.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the description of a new subspecies of Reed-Warbler from the Cameroons, which he proposed to name

***Acrocephalus bæticatus nyong,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Adult. Most nearly allied to *Acrocephalus bæticatus cinnamomeus*, from which race it differs in having the entire upper parts warm brown, considerably deeper and richer in tone than in the form mentioned. The underparts are likewise washed with the same colour, the sides of the breast and flanks almost uniform rich brown, middle of belly cream-colour, throat white. Rest of plumage as in *A. b. cinnamomeus*.

Distribution.—Known from a single male example obtained at Akonolinga, Nyong River, S. Cameroons, by G. L. Bates.

Type.—Male, January 4, 1913, Akonolinga, Nyong River, collected by G. L. Bates. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1920.6.26.–437

Measurements of the type.—Wing 54, culmen 11, tail 40, tarsus 21 mm.

Remarks.—For literature concerning this specimen see Lynes, Ibis, 1925, p. 82, under *A. b. minor*, and Bates, Ibis, 1927, p. 37, under *Acrocephalus bæticatus* near *minor*. I had long been unable to place this specimen to my satisfaction, and had made a note in my copy of the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' that the Nyong River bird was unlike anything in the British Museum series of Reed-Warblers. It fell to my lot, in conjunction with Ogilvie-Grant, to report (Ibis, 1917 and 1921) on the Nyong River specimens in Bates's collection, but we were then unable to come to any satisfactory conclusion about this bird and, hoping to receive more specimens anon, Ogilvie-Grant omitted it from the list of the Passerine species upon which he reported in 1917. For long the skin remained in the box with *A. b. cinnamomeus*, until Mr. Jack Vincent separated it and placed a MS. note alongside it, remarking, "this single specimen surely represents something undescribed," thus confirming, entirely independently, what others had thought probable. As I have now to include it somewhere in the fifth volume of the 'Birds of Tropical West Africa,' and as it seems most unlikely that further

specimens will be secured from that neighbourhood, I am taking the slight risk of describing it as a new subspecies. As Bates has already pointed out (Ibis, 1927, p. 37), no other bird of this species has ever been found in West Africa; the nearest locality to Akonolinga, from which the nearest allied race (*A. b. cinnamomeus*) has been found, is Fort Archambault, in French Shari, some 700 miles as the crow flies from the type-locality of the Nyong Reed-Warbler herewith described as new. It may be remarked that in the twelve examples of *A. b. cinnamomeus* examined, all are perfectly uniform in colouring, and none approach the rich tone of *A. b. nyong*.

Mr. Moreau sent the following four notes :—

(1) Thripias namaquus Lichtenstein.

In the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' Sclater listed, in addition to the typical form, five races, all of which he considered "doubtfully distinct" except *T. n. schoensis* (Rüpp.). Recently Granvik has described a further form, *T. n. turkanæ* (Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, p. 54).

I have examined the material available in the British Museum, amounting to eighty-two skins, which include topotypical specimens of all the described forms. I am struck with the amount of the individual variation, in birds from the same locality, in the coloration and marking of both the upper and the underparts. The auricular patch, used as a character by Claude Grant in describing *T. n. intermedius* (Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 101), is of no value. One broad distinction can, however, be made: birds from the most northerly part of the species' extensive range have a sooty patch on the breast more or less decidedly blackish in colour, and suppressing barring or spotting, while birds from East and South Africa all have their underparts wholly barred.

I conclude that only two forms can be properly distinguished :—

Thripias n. namaquus Licht., Cat. rer. rar. Hamburg, 1793, p. 17 : Damaraland ; of which *T. n. decipiens* (Sharpe), J. Linn. Soc., Zool. xvii. 1884, p. 430: Shimba Hills (S.W. of Mombasa)—not Zanzibar Island, as given by most authors; *T. n. angolensis* Rchw., Vögel Afrikas, ii. 1902, p. 190: Northern

Angola ; *T. n. intermedius* Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 101 : Ugogo, Dodoma District, Tanganyika Territory ; and *T. n. semischoensis* Lönnberg, Ark. Zool. x. no. 24, 1917, p. 19 : Kasindi, Lake Edward, Belgian Congo, are synonyms.

The range of *T. n. namaquus* is :—Damaraland to northern Angola in the west, across to Transvaal and Zululand in the east, thence northwards to Uganda, central Kenya Colony, and Mombasa.

T. n. schoensis (Rüpp.), Mus. Senck. iii. 1840, p. 120 : Shoa, Central Abyssinia ; of which *T. n. turkanæ* Granvik, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, p. 54 : Turkwell, north-western Kenya Colony, is a synonym.

Range of *T. n. schoensis* :—British Somaliland (Burao), through S. Abyssinia and upper Jubaland, round the south end of Lake Rudolf to the Turkwell, Bahr-el-Ghazal, and Darfur.

It may be noted that the boundary between the northern and southern forms is founded on material in the British Museum, and agrees with that given by van Someren (Nov. Zool. xxxviii. p. 283, 1932) between *T. n. schoensis* and the form extending northwards beyond Nairobi, which he tentatively calls *T. n. decipiens*.

(2) Arizelocichla chlorigula.

In the ' Systema Avium Æthiopicarum ' (ii. 1924, p. 389) *Arizelocichla chlorigula schusteri* Rchw. (Orn. Monatsber. xxi. 1913, p. 161) from the Nguru Mts. is stated to be " probably identical " with the typical form from Iringa. Lynes has compared the types of *A. chlorigula* and *A. schusteri*, and thinks that the difference between them is due to the latter being in a better state of dress (J. Orn. 1934, p. 75, Sonderh.).

Five birds are now available in the British Museum collection, and through the kindness of the Berlin Museum the type of *A. chlorigula* has been sent for examination. This proves to be without doubt an immature bird. Therefore only one form can be recognized, as follows :—

A. chlorigula (Rchw.), Orn. Monatsber. 1899, p. 8 ; of which *A. c. schusteri* Rchw. is a synonym.

Distribution.—Iringa, South Ukaguru (north-east of Kilosa), to Nguru, Tanganyika Territory.

(3) Chloropetella holochlorus.

Roberts described his *Chloropetella suahelica* (Ann. Trans. Mus. vi. 1917, p. 1) in ignorance of the existence of *Erythrocercus holochlorus* Erl. (Orn. Monatsber. ix. 1901, p. 181). Sclater reviewed the genus (Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. 1926, p. 31) and concluded that Roberts's bird, which was then known only from the type (a female), resembled Erlanger's "in all respects except that the wing was larger." He therefore maintained *C. suahelica* as a race of *C. holochlorus* in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum.'

Erlanger in his original description gave the wing-measurements of his material as male 50 mm., female 45 mm.; an unsexed topotype from Gobwen, Juba River, in the National Collection has wing 45 mm. Roberts gave the wing of his type (female) as 48 mm.; a female topotype collected by Fuggles-Couchman (Pugu Hills, S.W. of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory), measures only 45 mm. Thus birds from the two extremities of the species' range have the same wing-length.

The variability of size is illustrated by the following measurements. For the Kenya measurements I have to thank Dr. van Someren:—

Pangani River.—Male 50 mm.

Usambara.—Males 48 mm. (2 spec.); female 46; unsexed 45.

Kenya.—Males 46 mm. (4 spec.), 47 (5), 48 (2), 49 (5); females 44 (5), 45 (2), 46 (4), 47 (2), 49 (1).

Chloropetella suahelica Roberts must therefore be placed as a synonym of *C. holochlorus* (Erl.).

The known distribution of *C. holochorus* is: from the Juba River, Italian Somaliland, to the Pugu Hills, south-west of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory.

It appears to be confined to evergreen forest.

(4) Mesopicos griseocephalus.

In describing *M. g. kilimensis* from Kilimanjaro (Orn. Monatsber. xxxiv. 1926, p. 80), Neumann reviewed the other forms. He confined *M. g. griseocephalus* to Cape Colony, Transvaal, and Natal, but in *M. g. ruwenzori* included birds from Northern Angola, Kivu, Ruwenzori, Kambove, and

S.W. Tanganyika Territory (Mufindi, [M]beya, Neu Langenburg, and the Livingstones).

Bangs and Loveridge (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, lxxv. 3, p. 182) call birds from Mufindi and Dabaga *M. g. ruwenzori*, evidently following Neumann. Lynes, on the other hand (J. Ornith. lxxxiii. Sondh.), places his specimens from the same localities as "near *kilimensis*." They are on the average duller above and greener below than *M. g. ruwenzori*, in this resembling *M. g. kilimensis*; but, on the other hand, five out of his six adults have distinct red belly-patches, which are a feature of *M. g. ruwenzori* but not of *M. g. kilimensis*.

Sixteen specimens now in the British Museum Collection from Kilimanjaro and other mountains in Northern Tanganyika fully support the characters claimed for *M. g. kilimensis*. None of their bills exceeds 24 mm. in length, and only one specimen (from North Paré) shows the faintest trace of red on the belly. From Uluguru no specimen of *M. griseocephalus* is available. Friedmann (Ibis, 1928, p. 83) has recorded an Uluguru bird as typical *M. g. griseocephalus*. This is inherently improbable, and as he adds that "the specimen has a shorter bill than other South African specimens, and the yellowish-olive on the breast is duller and more greenish," it is clear that the bird should be called *M. g. kilimensis*.

It remains to mention two specimens in the British Museum Collection from Nyasaland (Ikawa and Livingstonia). These resemble *M. g. ruwenzori* in having more brightly golden upper parts than South African birds, but their red belly-patches are too poorly developed for them to be placed in that race without qualification.

It appears that the distribution of the various forms may be redefined as follows :—

M. g. griseocephalus (Bodd.) Tabl. Pl. Enl. 1783, p. 49 : Cape of Good Hope.

Cape Colony, Transvaal and Natal.

M. g. ruwenzori Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1902, p. 8 : Ruwenzori Mts.

Ruwenzori, Kivu, S.E. Belgian Congo, Northern Angola. ? ? †

S.W. Tanganyika birds are intermediate between this race and

† ? Rhodesia.

the next. Nyasaland birds are nearest to *M. g. ruwenzori*, but show a tendency towards the South African *M. g. griseocephalus*.

M. g. kilimensis Neumann, Orn. Monatsber. xxxiv. 1926, p. 80 : Kilimanjaro.

Mt. Meru, Kilimanjaro, North and South Paré, Usambara, and Uluguru.

Since this Woodpecker is confined to evergreen forest its range is essentially discontinuous.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following four notes and descriptions of three new subspecies :—

(1) On the Identity of *Spizocorys eremica* Reichenow & Peters.

By the kindly help of Mr. Kinnear and the authorities of the Zoological Museum in Hamburg I have been able to see one of the two known specimens of this Lark, which were collected by Dr. C. Rathjens near San'a, in Yemen, and thus to compare it with the recently described *Calandrella blanfordi philbyi* (Bull. B. O. C. lvi. p. 130). The result of the comparison is that while the new *C. b. philbyi* and *Spizocorys eremica* are certainly much alike, if not identical, the extremely worn state of the plumage of the Hamburg specimen, the exact colour of which cannot be seen, makes it impossible at present to say that they are one and the same race (in which case its name would be *Calandrella blanfordi eremica*). This identity could only be established by more specimens from Yemen, which is far from the locality where the new *C. b. philbyi* was found. All Philby's specimens, which now include another adult and two spotted young received since the form was described, are from Ashaira or Rakba plain, both in the same district, a little north-east of Taif and Mecca. The spotted young birds, by their close resemblance to young of *Calandrella brachydactila*, confirm the placing of the new form and *C. blanfordi* in *Calandrella*.

(2) On the Type-locality of *Turturœna iriditorques* (Cassin).

To give this as " St. Paul's River, Gaboon," as is done by Sclater, ' Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' p. 163, and by others following him, is evidently a mistake. The only St. Paul's River in West Africa of which I can learn is in Liberia. The

type of Cassin's *Columba iriditorques*, according to Witmer Stone in the Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1899, p. 36, was collected by MacDowell in West Africa, though in the original description specimens are mentioned both from MacDowell and from DuChaillu. To find out more about MacDowell and where he collected I have looked through the early volumes of the 'Philadelphia Proceedings,' where he is mentioned a number of times. The Hornbill named in 1847 *Buceros albo-cristatus* was "received several years since from Robert MacDowell, M.D., Surgeon attached to to the colonial government of Sierra Leone." Other birds collected by MacDowell are either said to be from "Western Africa" merely or from "St. Paul's River, western Africa," and this river is the only exact locality ever given for MacDowell's collections. As the name "Liberia" never occurs, that name was probably not then in use, and St. Paul's River was thought of as near Sierra Leone (as it really is). Sclater has "St. Paul's River, Liberia" for type-locality of *Tropicranus albocristatus* and *Bæopogon indicator leucurus*, and that of *Turturœna iriditorques* should be the same. Two other species discovered by MacDowell, *Coracina azurea* and *Malimbus scutatus*, were probably also from St. Paul's River, Liberia, though only "Sierra Leone" is mentioned. Gaboon is, of course, far away, in a different avifaunal division of Africa.

(3) On certain Genera of Woodpeckers.

These notes are published in order to preserve some results of a rather long and detailed investigation made when considering the new genus *Desertipicus* (Bull. B. O. C. lv. p. 156).

We deal here only with certain genera which are hard to separate from others, leaving aside all the Woodpeckers with characters of bill and toes by which they may easily be distinguished from the more typical or perfect Woodpeckers, as well as those with certain other obvious structural peculiarities. The ones we are dealing with may be called the Perfect Woodpeckers, characterized by a very straight hard and strong bill with parallel stiffening ridges on the upper surface situated far aside from the culmen, and a great development of the backward-projecting fourth toe for opposition to the

forward toes in the act of clinging, so that this fourth one is the longest of the toes.

The vast number of species comprising the " Perfect Woodpeckers " are found throughout both the Palæarctic and the Nearctic Regions, and also in the Tropics. Those inhabiting the Temperate Zone in both the Old and the New World must, for the most part, be put in the one genus *Dryobates*. No structural characters can be found to separate this great genus into smaller natural groups because of the presence of intergradations, as in size, length of bill, length of wing, etc. So attempts to divide up *Dryobates* according to colour-patterns, such as white spots or bars or white head-markings, or red in different parts, are defeated by intergradations and by the irregularity of the combinations of different patterns. Even for the genus *Yungipicus* no consistent characters can be found, so that the species put in it have to go also in *Dryobates*.

But colours form a better ground for separation than colour-patterns (in these birds), and there are certain Perfect Woodpeckers, structurally just like *Dryobates*, which constitute distinct genera because their colouring is quite different from that characteristic of *Dryobates*, which is always black or blackish with various white markings, and always with white spots on the wings. Such differently coloured Perfect Woodpeckers are *Leiopicus maharattensis* and *Hypopicus hyperythrus* in India, the American *Xenopicus* and *Sphyrapicus*, and the new Arabian *Desertipicus*.

The Perfect Woodpeckers of the Ethiopian Region also can be separated from *Dryobates* by colour alone. They have a characteristic golden-green colour, of which no trace is ever found in *Dryobates*. In some species this green colour is but a slight tinge ; but it is a curious fact that in every species with the feathers of the back only slightly green this is compensated for, as it were, by conspicuous bright golden-yellow shafts to the tail-feathers, while these shafts are black or dark wherever the back is bright green.

This colouring alone would be a good character on which to found an Ethiopian genus *Dendropicos* to include all the species usually included in *Dendropicos*, *Mesopicos*, and

Thripias. But there is not the same difficulty in finding other consistent characters than colour to divide up this assemblage of species. For we may define *Dendropicos* as small green Perfect Woodpeckers with short tails, never more than about half as long as the wing; *Mesopicos* as larger, with tail two-thirds as long as the wing; and *Thripias* as the largest Ethiopian Woodpeckers, with particularly long and strong bills. The species included in *Dendropicos* are *lafresnayi*, *fuscescens*, *abyssinicus*, *lugubris*, *gabonicus*, *pœcilolæmus*, *elachus*, and *stierlingi*; those in *Mesopicos*, *goertæ*, *griseocephalus*, *elliotii*, and *johnstoni*; those in *Thripias*, *namaquus*, *pyrrhogaster*, and *xantholophus* (these last two thus taken out of *Mesopicos*).

The statement that the Perfect Woodpeckers of Africa can be separated by colour from *Dryobates* has to be modified by an exception, the species *obsoletus*, with no green in its plumage. It will have to be called *Dryobates obsoletus*. While most, if not all, of the other genera of Woodpeckers are confined each to one of the great Zoogeographical Regions, *Dryobates* already, even without *obsoletus*, is found in at least three.

(4) On interesting Birds recently sent to the British Museum from Arabia by Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby.

In returning to Arabia a year ago Mr. Philby, travelling by motor-car, entered the country from the north, going through Sakaka, and thence to Hail and home to Jidda. On the way he got, besides many kinds of birds already collected by him in Arabia, two Larks for the first time :—

Alauda arvensis intermedia, at Sakaka and Abal Rawath.
Eremophila alpestris bilopha, at Mistawi (about 26° N. and 46° E.).

The Sky-Lark had been obtained in Arabia before only by Cheesman at Hufuf; the Horned Lark, though first discovered at Aqaba, had not since been reported from Arabia proper.

At Jidda in December Mr. Philby got two shore birds not previously obtained there, *Limosa lapponica lapponica* and *Arenaria interpres*.

In the Wadi Fatima–Mecca–Taif district he got, in the early months of the current year (1936), besides the *Accipiter brevipes* reported in this 'Bulletin' (lvi. p. 131), the following birds not previously obtained in that part of Arabia :—

Fringillaria striolata striolata.
Fringillaria tahapisi arabica.
Prinia gracilis (subsp. ?).
Acrocephalus schœnobænus.
Caprimulgus nubicus tamaricis.
Locustella fluviatilis. Two specimens at Ashaira on May 6. The River-Warbler had not been before recorded from Arabia, but had been found once in Asia Minor, once in Palestine, and once in Iraq—in every case in May.

But the discoveries listed above are surpassed in interest by some contained in a small lot received only last August. These were obtained on a hasty trip of only three weeks, the course of which, as can be inferred from the dates and localities on the labels, was from Jidda, first eastward to Khurma, then south-east and south to Ranya and Bisha, then on south into Asir, ending in the mountains (the highest in Arabia) near Abha. Following is a list of the more important species from this trip :—

Pseudacanthis yemenensis.
Anthus sordidus arabicus.
Parisoma buryi.

These three were all collected at Suda (alt. 9250 ft.) on June 9. They were all discovered as new by Bury in the mountains of Yemen (see account by Sclater in 'The Ibis,' 1917, p. 129), and none of them had since been collected by anyone else. Of the *Parisoma* Bury got only one specimen, and Philby's is the second.

Saxicola torquata. A spotted young Stonechat secured at Suda, also on June 9, that must belong to a resident race (see p. 20).

Hirundo daurica scullii. Same place and date. Mr. Philby had got this Swallow before in the Taif district; but here in Asir he records evidence that proves it to be resident and breeding.

Otus senegalensis subsp. An adult Scops Owl of this species and three young ones with some down on the tips of their feathers were brought by Arabs to Mr. Philby at Dailami, in Wadi Bisha, " from neighbouring rocky ridges," on May 26, thus proving this to be a resident breeding species in Arabia. An examination of the specimens of Scops Owl from Arabia in the British Museum, which have all been identified as *O. scops scops*, shows that while those from Muscat, Aden, and near Sulaiyil are undoubtedly correctly identified (and migrants there), one collected by Bury in the Amiri district is, like the recent ones from Philby, *O. senegalensis*.

Chlidonias leucoptera. Khaibar, June 1. This is the first record of the White-winged Black Tern in Arabia.

Burhinus capensis dodsoni. Sha'ib Shīd, June 1. This is the farthest north record for this bird, which was first discovered near Aden.

Streptopelia lugens. Two specimens, Sha'ib Hanjur, on June 2, and Suda on June 9. This is the first published record of this Abyssinian species of Turtle-Dove in Arabia, but I have been informed from the Hamburg Museum that there is a specimen there from San'a, in Yemen.

Alectoris græca philbyi. A specimen from near Abha, also eggs, and the note, " plentiful in all the Asir Mts."

Pica pica asirensis. The Magpie described herewith as a new race (see below).

Pica pica asirensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—A rather large race of the Magpie, with bill large and feet also notably large and strong. Back and rump entirely black ; flanks black, or with the white of the breast reaching them only a little way. Blue of the wings very dark ; tip portion of the inner remiges greenish-black (no bronze sheen on the wing). Middle tail-feathers too badly worn to be described ; the other rectrices, which are new, black, with only a little dark blue gloss, and their outer margins dull bronzy brown.

Type.—Collected by H. St. J. B. Philby (no. 1309) at Sahra, in the mountains of Asir, at an altitude of 7500 ft.,

on June 10, 1936. Sexed as ♀, and undoubtedly a bird lately breeding. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1936.8.8.1.

Measurements of the type.—Wing 225 mm. (or a trifle more, as the tip is worn); culmen from skull 48, from front edge of nostril 30; tail 245; tarsus 52.

Remarks.—There is also another specimen, "♀," secured on the same day. They were brought to Mr. Philby by Arabs, who brought also four young Magpies from a nest. On one label is, "Quite plentiful in the juniper forests, which begin at 7500 feet," and on the other, "Outside juniper zone in valley of plentiful acacias. They occur up to the summit of the Asir Mountains at 9250 feet."

Saxicola torquata felix, subsp. nov.

Description.—Second remex always shorter than the seventh, sometimes much shorter. General colour of male very black-looking because of the narrowness of the light edging to the black feathers, even in December and January, whereas in *S. t. rubicola* and the other palæarctic races the light edges are then still wide and little abraded. Tail-feathers also with scarcely any light edging. Axillaries and under wing-coverts almost black, with little white edging. Chestnut patch on the breast circumscribed, with pure white at the sides of the breast and on the abdomen. Upper tail-coverts (the few of them that remain in these specimens) with blackish shaft-streaks, as in *rubicola*, but apparently not so wide.

Type.—Male, collected by G. W. Bury, Menacha (Manakha), in Yemen (alt. 7000–8000 ft.), January 25, 1913. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1913.7.18.29.

Measurements of the type.—Wing 66 mm.; tail 50; tarsus 21.

Remarks.—Seven males have a wing-length of from 65 to 68 mm., oftenest 66; four females, oftenest 63. All these eleven specimens were collected at the same place, the name of which is correctly spelled Manakha, two in December, the rest in January. All are alike in state of plumage, which is nearly new, or at least not greatly worn. (Thus this race resembles some found in tropical Africa which never have very much light edging to the black feathers.) Sclater listed

them in his paper (Ibis, 1917, p. 165) as *S. r. maura*, but in his 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' he put them under *S. t. rubicola*. In the box with these specimens is a pencil note by Rear-Admiral Lynes: "Almost certainly resident . . . not *maura*—*vide* all black tail-feathers and sedentary wing-formula." I first supposed them to be migrant *S. t. rubicola*, and mentioned them as that in my paper (Ibis, 1936, p. 709). I am now convinced that they belong to a resident race, and that the young bird recently sent by Mr. Philby from the mountains of Asir, mentioned above, is a specimen of it, hatched there last spring.

But it must be added that the two specimens of *S. t. rubicola* mentioned in my paper as collected by Mr. Philby at Riyadh on November 6 *are S. t. rubicola*, which winters in Arabia, as it does in Egypt and Iraq. *S. t. felix* is doubtless confined to the high mountains of S.W. Arabia.

Scotocerca inquieta grisea, subsp. nov.

Description.—General colour dark and greyish, much darker than the typical race, which also is found in Arabia, and with the dark streaks, which in that are mostly confined to the head, extending to the back, and the streaks on the breast also extending farther down. In the heavy and extensive streaking this form is like *S. i. buryi* from the south-western corner of Arabia, but the general colour of that is warm brown, while this is greyish.

Type.—Collected by H. St. J. B. Philby (no. 625) at Mafraq Buraim, on the eastern edge of the Taif Plateau(alt. 4000 ft.), on November 16, 1934. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1935.1.5.289.

Measurements of the type.—Wing 51·5 mm.; culmen from skull 12; tail 53; tarsus 20.

Remarks.—The type is one of the three Mafraq Buraim specimens, shot at three different times in the year, which I mentioned in 'The Ibis' (1936, p. 694). Mr. Philby had collected the typical race in another part of Arabia, and has since sent some formalin specimens from Ashaira, which seem to agree with the typical race. The new race must be very local.

Mr. W. L. Sclater sent the following note on the genus *Calamornis* :—

In 1920 (Bull. B. O. C. xlvii. p. 118) I proposed a new genus, under the name *Calamornis*, for a series of Reed- or Swamp-Warblers inhabiting the greater part of the Ethiopian Region. Dr. Meise of Dresden now very courteously writes to me that this name is preoccupied by *Calamornis* Gould (' Birds of Asia,' iii. text to plate 73, 1874), the type of which is *Paradoxornis heudei*, a Chinese bird belonging to the family Timaliidæ. When proposing the new genus I consulted Waterhouse's Index and Scudder, and in neither of these is Gould's name recorded, but it is to be found in the more recently published ' Nomenclator ' now being issued by the Prussian Academy of Science. This must be my excuse for my error in using a preoccupied name.

As Dr. Meise hopes that I will rename the genus in order that it may appear in his ' Fortschritte ' containing lists of new genera of birds recently published, which will appear in the Report of the last (Oxford) International Congress held in 1934, I now propose that the name shall be altered to

Calamœcetor, gen. nom. nov.,

with type *Calamodyta brevipennis* Keulemans, as before.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following note on the type-locality of *Columba guinea* Linnæus :—

The type-locality of this pigeon is based on Linnæus's reference to Edwards's ' Birds,' ii. pl. 75, 1747, who states his plate was drawn from a pair of birds belonging to the Duke of Richmond and were said to have come from " the inland parts of Guinea in Africa." We cannot find that a more definite type-locality than Guinea has been suggested, and it seems desirable that this should now be done.

The name Guinea was apparently originally confined to that part of the west coast of Africa from Cape Nun, southern Morocco, to some point not very far south, for it was not

until the 15th century that it was extended south to Senegal. This place name came into general use in Europe in the 15th century, and at one time included the west coast of Africa from Cape Nun, southern Morocco, to Cape Negro, southern Portuguese Angola. More recently it was restricted to three areas : northern or upper Guinea from the Casamance River to the Niger Delta, middle Guinea being Cameroon, and southern or lower Guinea from Gabun to Loango. The known distribution of the Speckled Pigeon is from Senegal and Gambia eastwards through the inland areas of West Africa to Eastern Africa, and it is again found in Portuguese Angola, where Bocage obtained it at Huilla and Capangombe in the Mossamedes area, as we are informed by Dr. Frade, under date January 25, 1936, that the Capangombe specimen has a pale silver-grey rump, and that the Huilla specimen is no longer in the collection.

Brisson, Orn. i. 1760, p. 132 ; Buffon, Av. ii. 1771, p. 538 ; and Latham, Syn. ii. (2) 1783, p. 639, no. 32, all give southern parts of Guinea ; Gmelin, S. N. ii. 1788, p. 774, no. 16, and Latham, Ind. Orn. ii. 1790, p. 602, no. 35, give South Africa, and Temminck, Hist. Nat. Pig. et Gall. i. 1813, pp. 214, 462, gives Coasts of Guinea. There has clearly been some divergence of opinion as to what part of Guinea this pigeon was supposed to inhabit ; but we must base our type-locality on the one reference given by Linnæus. Edwards's figure is that of the northern (*C. g. guinea*), and not southern race (*C. g. phœonotus*). As the published literature gives us only Guinea or southern Guinea, and the bird occurs in both areas from Senegal to Angola, except for the equatorial forest area, the Duke of Richmond's specimen may have come from anywhere on the West African coast ; but we think it safe to presume that it came from northern Guinea, and not southern Guinea, and we therefore suggest that the exact type-locality of *Columba guinea guinea* Linnæus be fixed as Senegal, West Africa, this being not only within the ancient Guinea, but the most western locality where the bird is still found.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new form of the Little-blue Petrel, and some remarks on the occurrence of the Kermadec Petrel in England.

Alphapuffinus assimilis glauerti, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *A. a. tunnyi* in having smaller average measurements.

Distribution.—Rottnest Island to Houtman's Abrolhos, South-west Australia.

Type.—No. A.2901 in the Perth Museum. Collected by Mr. L. Glauert at Cottesloe, Western Australia.

Measurements.—Wing 180, culmen 24, tail 65, tarsus 36·5, middle toe and claw 41 mm.

Remarks.—The measurements of six specimens of *A. a. tunnyi* are as follows :—Wing 175–182 (179), culmen 25–26 (25·1), tail 66–69·5 (68), tarsus 36–39·5 (37·3), middle toe and claw 43–43·5 (43·1) mm., while the measurements of ten specimens of *A. a. glauerti* are :—Wing 167–180 (174·9), culmen 23–24 (23·5), tail 63–71 (66·6), tarsus 36–39 (36·9), middle toe and claw 39–42 (40·8) mm.

In *A. a. tunnyi* the culmen is 25 mm. or over ; middle toe and claw 43 mm. or over. The webs are yellowish, feet blue.

In *A. a. glauerti* the culmen is under 25 mm. ; middle toe and claw under 43 mm. ; eyes dark brown ; feet dark bluish-horn, webs white or cream shot with neutral ; bill bluish-horn or bluish-grey, culmen black. The axillaries are not generally all white, some of the feathers have dark grey on one web. In birds of the year the " bloom " on the feathers of the upper surface is more noticeable than in the old and matured birds. In younger birds the feathers on the sides and back of the neck are fringed with white. In adults the bill is thinner and shorter than in *A. a. tunnyi*, and the feathers immediately over the bill seem greyer than the corresponding part in *A. a. tunnyi*.

In ' The Emu,' April 2, 1935, vol. xxxiv. pt. 4, p. 314, Robinson says that *A. a. glauerti* breeds on Parrakeet Island, Rottnest Islands, between September 8 to 10. The nests were made of sticks and seaweed, and were situated under

a ledge of rock, or in burrows. The young resembled black chickens and were very fat.

The eggs measured 55·9 by 33·5 and 55·6 by 34 mm., and two of the broad form 51·7 by 35·5 and 51·2 by 36 mm. Average, 53·6 by 34·7 mm.

Hall (Ibis, April 1902, p. 206) says that eggs were found in July on the Pelsart Group, Houtman's Abrolhos.

Pterodroma neglecta.

When discussing the occurrence of this bird in England in ' The Ibis ' for 1914, p. 435, Iredale stressed the difference in the colour of the primary shafts of *P. neglecta* and *P. arminjoniana*, facts well known, but not fully appreciated. He also noted that while *P. arminjoniana* had dusky shafts, and *P. neglecta* white shafts, immature specimens of the Kermadec Island bird also had dusky shafts. At what age do they turn white ?

Of two specimens of *Pterodroma neglecta* collected on Rapa Island, Tubuai Islands (or Austral Group) on April 17, 1925, one is typical *P. neglecta* and the other typical *P. arminjoniana.*

The first caught alive measures : wing 302, tail 100, culmen 29·5, tarsus 40, middle toe and claw 54 mm. In this bird the shafts of the primaries are white only at the base ; the shafts of the tail-feathers are also white for the basal half. The exposed under-portions of the primaries are not so extensively white as in *P. neglecta*, but resemble in this respect *P. arminjoniana.* Iris brown, bill black, legs dark, feet nearly black.

The other specimen, a male collected at the same time and place as the above, measures : wing 291, tail 106, culmen 30, tarsus 36, middle toe and claw 50 mm. This bird is darker on the undersurface than the other, the feet being parti-coloured. The shafts of the primaries are white, and the exposed under-portions of the primaries are extensively white as in true *P. neglecta.* Iris dark brown, bill black, legs pale grey, feet with the first phalanx grey, the remainder of the toes black.

In ' The Ibis,' April 1936, p. 377, the colour of the shafts of *P. arminjoniana* is said to be white ; this is a mis-statement.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following notes :—

(1) Hirundo tahitica neoxena.

Careful study of this bird indicates that three races exist in Australia, one of which is unnamed, whilst the characters of another have hitherto been wrongly defined :—

Hirundo tahitica neoxena Gould (Bds. Australia, pt. 9, 1842 : Tasmania).

From the type-locality I have seen only a single adult, but this agrees perfectly with a series from the Adelaide district and others from Victoria. All these birds are characterized by their large size, usually well-developed white tail-spots, and by having the undersurface only slightly whitish on the centre of the abdomen.

Measurements of eighteen birds.—Wing 113–118 mm. (once 121), outer tail-feather 77–84 (once 76), bill from anterior edge of nostril 5–5·5 mm.

Birds from New South Wales show a tendency towards the Queensland race, but are clearly better treated as *neoxena*.

Measurements of six birds.—Wing 112–115, tail (70) 77–83 mm.

Status.—In Tasmania mainly a summer breeding visitor. In Victoria and New South Wales present throughout the year, but probably a proportion outside the breeding season are migrants. Mr. W. B. Alexander furnishes the following notes upon Queensland :—" In the Brisbane district flocks were present throughout the year, including times when others, apparently, were breeding there. At Rockhampton flocks were noted June–August and again October–November, when local birds were breeding. At Cairns flocks were noted in August–September. There are also records of the bird from Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria as non-breeding visitors."

It should be noted that I have seen no examples from Queensland which belong to *H. t. neoxena*, but the indubitable nature of the above records makes it highly probable that the form occurs in that state in winter. At any rate, the migratory habit of the species must not be overlooked, though it is clearly not so powerful a migrant as *Petrochelidon nigricans*.

Hirundo tahitica carteri (Mathews) (Nov. Zool. xviii. 1912, p. 300 : Broome Hill, S.W. Australia).

This form was originally described as having a paler throat, but this is evidently due merely to wearing However, it may be upheld on the strength of its usually shorter tail with generally less marked white spots and because of its undoubtedly stronger bill—in the latter respect linking the Australian Swallows of the *H. tahitica* group with *H. javonica*, in which the bill is still larger.

Measurements of nine birds.—Wing 112–119, tail 72–76, 80, 81, bill (5·5) 6–6·5 mm.

Available information seems to show that this race is resident in W. Australia, ranging north to King River, Bernies Island, and Point Cloates. Eastward its range is uncertain. Recorded breeding October–November.

Hirundo tahitica parsoni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *H. t. neoxena* in being much smaller, undersurface very much more extensively white in centre, perhaps less white on tail.

Measurements of nine birds.—Wing 107–112, tail 69–72 (once 75), bill 4–5 mm.

Type.—In the British Museum, ♂ ad., Bart le Frere, Queensland, 30. v. 1900. Reg. no. 1901.3.20.85.

Six in the British Museum are from Bart le Frere, Thursday Island, and Mount Hutton. There are records of breeding on Keppel Island (' Emu,' xxiv. p. 245) and about Cairns, Mackay, and Rockhampton. Breeding dates kindly furnished by Mr. Alexander for Cairns and Rockhampton are October–November, when there were also present flocks presumed to be *H. t. neoxena.*

Named after Mr. F. E. Parsons of Adelaide, to whom I am indebted for a small series from that locality which has greatly facilitated this revision.

(2) Petroica vittata (Quoy & Gaimard) (Voy. de l'Astrol., Zool. i. 1830, p. 173 : King George Sound—error =Tasmania).

In examining a series of this species it was evident that there was considerable individual variation, and both races described

required confirmation. Dr. E. Mayr kindly sent the following note upon *Amaurodryas vittata bassi* Mathews (Austral Av. Rec. ii. p. 92 : Barren Island) :—

" The type of *A. v. bassi* is a very dark bird and has the amount of white on the wing reduced, but two others from Barren Island and two from Flinders Island are quite indistinguishable from Tasmanian specimens. It seems best to regard *A. v. bassi* as a synonym of *P. vittata*."

Petroica vittata kingi (Mathews) (Austral Av. Rec. ii. p. 92 : King Island).

Notes kindly furnished by Dr. Mayr on birds in Mathew's collection and by Mr. Mack on others in Melbourne show that nine birds from this locality are all more olive-brownish above and particularly more brown on the ventral surface in comparison with Tasmanian birds, and the race is quite valid.

Corrigendum to Volume LVI.

P. iii, line 14, *for* Mr. P. F. Bunyard's Remarks on the nesting of Pied Wagtails in glass-houses *read* Mr. P. F. Bunyard's Remarks on the gregarious roosting of Pied Wagtails in glass-houses.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 1936, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

1. The Chairman will deliver his Annual Address.
2. Dr. W. Rowan will show some slides of Canadian birds.
3. Mr. P. F. Bunyard will exhibit some uncommon eggs from Alberta, Canada, brought home by Dr. W. Rowan.

Bird Room

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

PURCHASED

No. CCCXCIX.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, November 11, 1936.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—W. B. Alexander ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; Mrs. R. G. Barnes ; F. J. F. Barrington ; P. F. Bunyard ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; H. P. O. Cleave ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; R. E. Heath ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Dr. K. Jordan ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Miss C. Longfield ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; J. M. D. Mackenzie ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; Mrs. C. D. Murton ; T. H. Newman ; E. M. Nicholson ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; Miss D. Peall ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; D. Seth-Smith (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; Miss D. L. Taylor ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; C. M. N. White ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guest of the Club :—Dr. W. Rowan.

Guests :—J. S. Dyson ; Dr. Fudakowski ; Mrs. C. Hawkes ; R. S. Jenyns ; Miss L. Lodge ; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed ; K. B. Rooke ; Dr. and Mrs. H. Rowan ; J. E. Scott.

Members of the Club, 38 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Guests, 10.

The Chairman, Mr. G. M. Mathews, gave his Annual Address.

Chairman's Address.

Since the last Annual Address the British Ornithologists' Union has lost by death two Honorary Members: M. A. Menzbier and K. Lambrecht; three Foreign Members: F. E. Blaauw, L. Lavauden, and O. Reiser; and the following Ordinary Members: H. G. Barclay, J. McL. Marshall, H. S. Snell, J. I. S. Whitaker, and J. Sladen Wing; former Members of the Union were A. McL. Marshall, the Rev. H. H. Slater, A. Thorburn, and Lt.-Col. Delmé-Radcliffe; while at home A. Patterson, and abroad P. K. Koslov and H. S. Swarth, have also passed away.

The transfer of the British Museum Ornithological Collection to its new quarters was carried out successfully during the past year. Dr. L. C. Sanford presented on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History the types of fifteen species of British birds from the Tring Collection to the British Museum. Dr. Sanford was entertained at a dinner by British Ornithologists organized by Col. R. Meinertzhagen.

In recognition of his services to Ornithology in general, and his monumental *Cisticola* review in particular, the Godman-Salvin medal in gold was presented to Rear-Admiral H. Lynes by the President of the Union, Mr. H. F. Witherby, at the October dinner of the B. O. C.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker's collection of Indian birds-eggs, in which about 1960 different forms are represented, has been presented to the British Museum. This does not include the Cuckoo-egg collection, which was previously purchased by the Museum.

The British Trust for Ornithology has been conducting enquiries into the food of the Little Owl, the status of the Woodcock and the Swallow, and we understand that part of the proceeds of the Grey Memorial Fund will also be devoted to the Trust. Mr. D. A. Bannerman will represent the B. O. U. on the Oxford University Committee.

Regional Review (*October* 1935 *to October* 1936).

ARCTIC.

The Oxford University Expedition which left England in the autumn of 1935 spent the winter in North East Land, and returned early in September 1936 to this country. Mr. D. B. KEITH accompanied the expedition as ornithologist, and is, we understand, preparing a paper on the Birds of North East Land which should be of interest, as no English ornithologist has wintered there before. Mrs. R. G. TAYLOR spent a month at Bruce City (Klaas Billen Bay, W. Spitsbergen) in July and August, and made some interesting notes on the birds observed there.

Messrs. C. G. and E. G. BIRD have joined the Norwegian Greenland Expedition, and intend spending the winter in N.E. Greenland.

Mr. A. MORRISON spent about six weeks in July and August in north-east Iceland.

Mr. D. HAIG-THOMAS was at Myvatn during the summer.

EUROPE.

Major W. M. CONGREVE and Mr. G. TOMKINSON worked part of East Finmark again during the summer.

Dr. H. M. S. BLAIR explored part of S. Central Norway, on which little previous work has been done. Messrs. J. J. B. YOUNG, P. W. BOUGHTON LEIGH, and J. L. CHAWORTH MUSTERS were in West Central Norway about the same time.

Finland was visited by Mr. E. C. STUART BAKER and Brig.-Gen. R. M. BETHAM; also by Lt.-Col. R. F. MEIKLEJOHN, H. J. R. PEASE, Miss M. BARCLAY, and others who stayed on the island of Hailuoto (Karlö) in the Gulf of Bothnia. Mr. C. H. WELLS also paid a brief visit to S. Finland. Mr. J. H. MCNEILE was in Esthonia, and subsequently also in Scandinavia.

Mr. H. WHISTLER spent a month in Poland and the Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN visited Hungary under the auspices of the R. Hung. Orn. Institute in May and June. Miss C. M. ACLAND paid a visit to Poland.

In the Mediterranean Mr. B. W. Tucker paid a visit to Corsica in the late summer, but no news has been received from Capt. P. W. Munn since the outbreak of the Civil War in Spain. Mr. C. W. N. White traversed most of the island of Crete during the early autumn.

Asia.

Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby has continued his collecting in Arabia, and three new subspecies have been described by Mr. G. L. Bates from his collections.

Mr. R. H. Greaves has published some interesting notes on Egyptian bird life recently.

Africa.

Lt.-Col. R. F. Meinertzhagen visited the Kenya Highlands in spring, and passed through Egypt on his way north.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman was in Tangier and Marocco in March, and Mr. F. J. F. Barrington in Tunisia in January.

The Rev. A. H. Paget Wilkes is still working at the 'Birds of Uganda,' but expects to return to England before long.

Rear-Admiral H. Lynes has left for South Africa to continue his researches on the bird-life there.

America.

Sir C. F. Belcher paid a short visit to N. Patagonia, and will be leaving Trinidad in the near future. He has for some years past been studying the bird-life of Trinidad with Mr. Smooker.

Mr. J. Armitage spent three months in the West Indies, chiefly in Jamaica.

Mr. B. G. Harrison made a short trip to Uruguay and S.E. Brazil, where he collected a series of eggs of the Shiny Cowbird of South America (*Molothrus b. bonariensis*).

Literature.

We understand that work has been begun upon a new edition of the 'Practical Handbook,' to be edited and published by Mr. H. F. Witherby.

The Misses L. J. Rintoul and E. V. Baxter published an excellent work entitled 'A Vertebrate Fauna of Forth,' and the Rev. J. M. McWilliam has also brought out a work on 'The Birds of the Firth of Clyde.'

Mr. F. N. Chasen has given us 'A Handlist of Malaysian Birds: a systematic list of the birds of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, and Java.' He has also published vol. iii. of the late H. C. Robinson's 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula.'

Dr. O. Helms has added a little to our knowledge of the life-history of Linnæus in a paper entitled "Linné som Naturforsker og Læge," published in the 'Naturens Verden,' 1935.

Dr. E. Mayr continues the publication of the "Whitney South Sea Expedition" series of papers in the Amer. Mus. Novitates, nos. 814 and 820.

Dr. A. Wetmore has published part xiii. of Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey.'

Dr. G. P. Dementiev has completed the first volume of his 'Systema Avium Rossicarum.'

Dr. R. Cushman Murphy has written a two-volume work on the 'Ocean Birds of South America' containing 86 plates, 14 of which are coloured.

Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has published part ix. of his 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.'

Messrs. A. B. Steullet and E. A. Deautier are the authors of 'Catalogo sistmático de las Aves de la Repúblico Argentina,' published by the Museo de la Plata.

Mr. D. A. Bannerman has published the fourth volume of his work 'The Birds of Tropical West Africa.'

Prince Taka-Tsukasa has brought volume i. of his 'Birds of Nippon' a little nearer completion by the publication of part 5.

My Supplement to the 'Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Island' has been published.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain for kindly helping me in compiling the data to this address.

Dr. Karl Jordan made a statement regarding the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature, intimating the appointment of Mr. Francis Hemming, a British entomologist, as the new Secretary.

Dr. William Rowan, University of Alberta, showed a series of sixty excellent slides illustrating the bird-life of the Alberta muskegs, with special reference to species included in the British List, and made the following remarks :—

Muskegs may be roughly defined as bogs of varying depth and wetness that occur across the whole breadth of northern Canada at irregular intervals, ranging in size from a few hundred yards across to many miles. Because collectors have always found them unpleasant they have been largely avoided, and comparatively little is known of their fauna. The area specifically dealt with lies to the south of Lesser Slave Lake.

Five species received particular attention, as follows :—

The Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), a common breeder on the west side of the Athabasca River, but unaccountably scarce on the eastern. Both subspecies have been collected, but the western is apparently the regular breeding form. The species uses the old nests of other birds for the deposition of its eggs, the commonest nests used being those of the American Robin, Rusty Blackbird, and Waxwing.

The Red-breasted Snipe or Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*), a subspecies of *L. g. griseus*, originally recognized and described by the speaker, breeds generally in small numbers. In habits it is rather secretive and inconspicuous and is never actually abundant. During incubation the female only officiates, although the male is constantly in attendance. As soon as the eggs are hatched the female deserts the family, and the rearing of the young is undertaken entirely by the male. The speaker suggested that breeding grounds of *L. g. griseus*, although still unknown, probably do exist somewhere in eastern Canada or Labrador. The fact that they have not yet been found probably depends on factors similar to those that have delayed discovery of the breeding grounds of *L. g. hendersoni*. In spite of the activities of various well-known collectors in the west, the Dowitcher there has eluded discovery merely because it frequents muskeg which the collector avoids, and unless he is prepared to go right into it he can pass numerous Dowitchers daily and remain oblivious of their presence.

The Lesser Yellowshank (*Tringa flavipes*) mainly patronises burnt-over areas on which brush and small trees are again getting a substantial footing. The birds tend to sit tightly, and even a shot-gun fired close to them may fail to "jump" them. Their protective colouring makes them difficult to see. Both birds usually incubate.

The Greater Yellowshank (*Tringa melanoleuca*) has recently been found to nest in old muskeg, although its favourite site, on the area under consideration, is unquestionably on the jackpine ridges that surround muskeg areas. The ground must be more open than that chosen by its lesser relative, and burnt logs appear to be an integral requirement. The birds sit so closely and are so difficult to see that they can be passed at a few feet and entirely missed. When they are successfully spotted they usually have to be lifted off the nest before the eggs can be examined. The birds have as a rule been collected together with the eggs in an effort to determine the sex of the incubating individual. With one exception, a bird so shy that it "jumped" before the collector was in range, they have always been females. The single male was later secured as it flew round the nest and its sex determined. While the females are incubating on the ridges the males spend their time in the muskegs. Here some fifteen have been collected at random during various years. They have, without exception, proved to be males. When the period of incubation nears completion the male takes up a position at the tip of some large dead trunk close to the nest, and the moment the last egg has hatched—they hatch almost simultaneously, as incubation does not commence till the last egg has been deposited—assists in conducting the young down to the nearest muskeg, where they are reared. Both birds are now excessively noisy where formerly they were amongst the most silent of the muskeg fraternity.

The Bonaparte Gull builds a small but beautiful nest in tamarac or spruce at any height from two to forty feet. Individuals using old Crows' nests have twice been encountered. Unlike the Greater Yellowshank, the male bird stays round the nest during incubation and bombards visitors, thus giving the show away and making the finding of the nest relatively

easy. Were it not for these demonstrations the eggs of this Gull would be far rarer than they are, for many a nest is impossible to see from the ground.

Photographs of the above species at the nest were shown. In addition, a brief account was given of other species on the British List that breed also in the muskegs, as well as some of the more characteristic species confined to the American continent.

Dr. Karl Jordan, referring to Dr. Rowan's remarks on cycles in the abundance of certain mammals and birds, inquired as to the presence of ecto-parasites and the occurrence of tularæmia. Dr. Rowan replied that ticks were often found, but that the disease was uncommon in Alberta.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited an interesting series of eggs from the Alberta (Canada) muskegs collected by Dr. Rowan and A. D. Henderson, including four clutches of four each, one of three, and one of two of the Greater Yellowlegs or Yellowshank (*Tringa melanoleuca*), some of which were exhibited at the Meeting on October 8, 1930 (Bull. B. O. C. No. cccxliv. pp. 9–11), and made the following remarks :—

On the arrival of these eggs I at once realized the difficulty of describing the eggs of some of the rarer Limicolæ from a limited series. In regard to the ground-colours, my original description holds good, which agrees very well with Bent's ' Life Histories of North American Shore Birds ' (pp. 324–325). Apparently the dark buff ground-colour is characteristic of the typical eggs, and the following clutches must be regarded more or less as varieties.

Clutch No. 254 is remarkable. Only one of the four eggs has the typical ground-colour and markings ; two are of the cyanic variety, and are marked only at the extreme large ends with a few heavily superimposed blotches of dark chestnut-brown and large underlying markings of greyish-mauve. The fourth egg has a ground-colour of ochraceous-green, and is, like the first egg, heavily capped with blackish-brown, with numerous underlying markings of pale and dark greyish-mauve.

Clutch No. 142 is especially beautiful, the ground-colour varying from pale ochraceous-buff to pale greenish. The markings are of a very rich shade of reddish-brown, with a longitudinal tendency. One has the entire extreme end completely capped with pigment, measuring 20–24 mm.

The third clutch, No. 143, has a distinctive ground-colour of greenish-buff, with evenly distributed markings. This, and the former clutch, as will be seen from the weights and measurements, are very large eggs.

A further comparative study with the eggs of the Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and Redshank (*Tringa totanus totanus*) confirms that they are much more closely allied to those of the latter (see aforementioned Bulletin, p. 10).

Weights and measurements of the two clutches of exceptionally large eggs of *Tringa melanoleuca* (May 22, 1936, fresh ; May 19, heavily incubated).

	Weights.		Measurements.
Clutch No. 142	1·492 g.		52 × 33·4 mm.
	1·557 „		54·4 × 32·5 „
	1·585 „		53 × 34 „
	1·573 „		53·3 × 33·4 „
Average	1·552 „	Average	52·2 × 33·3 „
Clutch No. 143	1·492 „		53·8 × 34 „
	1·484 „		51 × 34·2 „
	1·430 „		48·8 × 34·3 „
	1·407 „		50·3 × 34·8 „
Average	1·453 „	Average	51 × 34·3 „
Average, for 25 eggs	1·470 „		49·8 × 33·9 „
Maximum	1·585 „		53·8 × 34 „
Minimum	1·219 „		46 × 33·8 „

Bent's average, 51 eggs ..... 48·9 × 33 mm.
Maximum ..... 53·5 × 33·8 „
Minimum ..... 43·7 × 31·5 „

The foregoing weights and measurements include those eggs exhibited on October 8, 1930, and one clutch in the Massey collection and one clutch of four from the A. D. Henderson collection.

The three clutches of Red-breasted Snipe (*Limnodromus griseus hendersoni* Rowan) exhibited differ considerably from

those exhibited on October 11, 1933 (Bull. B. O. C. No. ccclxxi. p. 13). The ground-colour is distinctly more greenish, and the underlying markings are bolder and more conspicuous. Apparently this is more or less an outstanding characteristic, as four of the five clutches exhibited prove. This greenish-ground type makes it possible to almost match them with the eggs of the Reeve (*Philomachus pugnax*), which they also closely resemble in shape, weight, and size.

Bent states that they closely resemble certain types of the heavily blotched eggs of Wilson's Snipe (*Capella gallingao delicata*). Unfortunately my material for comparative study is limited to the single clutch of four exhibited, from which it will be seen that there is a slight resemblance to one of the clutches of *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni* in weights and measurements; the latter are not only larger but heavier, and the granulation of the shell is a little coarser (see also Bull. B. O. C. No. ccclxv. pp. 90–92).

Weights and measurements of the eggs of *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*, including the eight eggs exhibited on October 11, 1933.

Average, 19 eggs	0·864 g.	41·2 × 28·9 mm.
Maximum	0·993 „	44 × 27·6 „
Minimum	0·742 „	38 × 28·4 „

(Dates: May 31–June 6, fresh to highly incubated. Incubation apparently by female, which Rowan twice secured at nest or flushed at close range.)

I exhibit clutches of *P. pugnax* for comparison, and give Rey's weights and measurements :—

Average, 45 eggs	43·56 × 30·32 mm.
Maximum	46·9 × 30·8 „
Minimum	39·9 × 30·7 „
Weight	0·935 g.

The weights and measurements should also be compared with Bent's figures for *C. g. delicata* ('Life Histories of North American Shore Birds,' p. 86).

The clutch of four eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa s. solitaria*) exhibited were typical, but especially interesting as

the bird at the nest had already been shown on the screen. It will be noticed that this clutch retains its characteristic beautiful green ground-colour. Unfortunately with age this fades to a greenish-white. They were taken on June 2, 1936, from an old nest of the Rusty Blackbird or Grackle (*Euphagus carolinus* Müller) situated in spruce fir—incubation advanced. The acquisition of this clutch enables me to fix the figures for a unique series of these rare eggs :—

Average, 49 eggs	0·605·8 g.	36·4 × 25·5 mm.
Maximum	0·691 „	39 × 26 „
Minimum	0·535 „	34·2 × 26 „

Dr. Rowan, in addition to showing on the screen the Solitary Sandpiper at the nest, showed the Greater Yellowshank on the nest of clutch No. 142, and also the clutch of Red-breasted Snipe *in situ*, No. 156.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited three clutches of two each of the American Nightjar or Night-Hawk (*Chordeiles minor minor*). These eggs are beautifully figured by Bendire (' Life Histories of North American Birds,' pl. 3, figs. 1–3). He states : " I consider the eggs of the Night-Hawk one of the most difficult ones known to me to describe satisfactorily." My description, from the clutches exhibited, is as follows :—Ground-colour pale greenish to greyish-white ; superimposed markings finely stippled olive-brown in many shades ; underlying markings ash-grey. In shape they resemble the eggs of all the Caprimulgidæ on the British List, but they do not show so much gloss as on the eggs of *Caprimulgus e. europæus* and *C. ruficollis desertorum*. The finely stippled superimposed and underlying markings are evenly distributed, and usually in equal proportions, which gives them their beautiful marbled appearance.

Apparently there is only one British record for this bird, which was shot at Tresco, Scilly Isles. The eggs came from Seba Beach, Alberta, Indian Bay, Manitoba, and the muskeg area of Fawcett, Alberta, which Dr. Rowan has described tonight. One clutch was taken on bare rock, and the others on bare ground among scanty vegetation, etc.

The weights and measurements of the three clutches are as follows :—

C/1	0·649 g.	32×23·4 mm.
	0·630 „	30×23·4 „
C/2	0·610 „	31×22·8 „
	0·587 „	30×22 „
C/3	0·613 „	32×21·8 „
	0·537 „	30×22 „
Average, 6 eggs ..	0·604 „	30·8×22·6 „

Bendire's figures for 81 eggs are as follows :—

Average	29;97×21·84 mm.
Maximum	33·53×22·86 „
Minimum	27·68×20·57 „

Dr. Ernst Mayr sent the following description of a new Honey-eater from the Snow Mountains of New Guinea :—

Melidectes belfordi kinneari, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Melidectes belfordi brassi* Mayr & Rand, but smaller; grey edges of the feathers of the back washed with olivaceous, not almost pure grey as in adult *M. belfordi*, or olivaceous as in *M. b. joiceyi*; differs from *M. griseirostris* by the black, not grey bill.

Distribution.—Utakwa River, Nassau Range, Snow Mts., New Guinea.

Type.—Male, Camp 9, Utakwa River, Dutch New Guinea, January 26, 1913; B. O. U. New Guinea Exped.; Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1916.5.30.654.

Measurements.—Wing, ♂, 133, 138, 139 mm., against 139–144 in *M. b. brassi*, and tail, ♂, 110, 116, 119 mm., against 119–125 in *M. b. brassi*. *M. b. joiceyi* is still smaller, wing, ♂, 126–134 mm.

Remarks.—Dr. E. Stresemann had already called attention to the probable distinctness of these birds (Arch. Naturgesch. lxxxix. fasc. 7, 1923, p. 55), but did not examine the specimens. The recent revision of the south-east New Guinea races of this species by Mayr and Rand (Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 1936, p. 247), to which *M. b. kinneari* is most similar, has facilitated the correct identification of these Snow Mt. birds.

It gives me great pleasure to name this bird in honour of Mr. Norman B. Kinnear, who has always been of the greatest assistance to me in the study of the New Guinea material at the British Museum.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the following description of a new race of Swamp-Warbler from Lake Chad, which he proposed to name

Bradypterus brachypterus chadensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Adult male. Most nearly resembles *B. brachypterus abyssinicus*, from which it differs in its larger size, wing 58 mm. (the wing of *abyssinicus* measures 55 mm. and under), no spotting or streaks on throat, and in having a decided rufous tinge on the upper parts.

From *B. b. centralis* it is altogether browner below, particularly on the flanks, sides, and under tail-coverts, lacks the very white throat and white middle of belly of that race, and also lacks the distinct fine streaking on the crop.

Type.—In the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1936.2.21.1.), Lake Chad, December 1, 1904 ; Boyd Alexander Coll.

Measurements of type.—Bill (exposed culmen) 13 ; wing 58 ; tail 61 ; tarsus 27 mm.

Remarks.—This specimen, the only example of the *B. brachypterus* group ever obtained from Lake Chad, or indeed from any locality nearer than the Nyong River in the Cameroons, has lain for years in the private museum of the late Boyd Alexander in the family seat at Cranbrook. The large number of what were believed to be duplicates of his African collections have now been acquired by the British Museum, and this, the first specimen I happen to have examined critically, cannot be assigned to any known race of this puzzling genus, so many members of which, as in the present instance, are unique examples. Under the circumstances I have no option but to describe it as a new race.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On the Distribution of Two Eastern African Races of *Pternistis afer* (P. L. S. Müller).

With reference to our note in the Bull. British Ornithologists' Club, lv. 1935, p. 84, Dr. van Someren has sent us for identification an adult male of this Francolin from Lumbo, Mozambique Province, Portuguese East Africa, and in a letter dated July 23, 1926, states that he has a series of males and females with moustachial stripe and cheeks black, all taken at the same time by Loveridge. This male proves to be typical *Pternistis afer melanogaster* Neumann, and causes us to slightly alter the distribution of two races, as follows :—

Pternistis afer humboldtii (Peters).

Distribution.—The valley of the Zambesi in Portuguese East Africa west of the mouth of the Shiré River, central and southern Portuguese East Africa north of the Zambesi, except the Zambesi Valley east of the mouth of the Shiré River.

Pternistis afer melanogaster Neumann.

Distribution.—Rovuma Valley and northern Portuguese East Africa as far south as Lumbo, Mozambique, the Songea District (Mbamba Bay, Mkiri, and Lipumba), Mahenge District, Morogoro District (Mkata Plains), Dar-es-Salaam, Korogwe and Tanga in northern and eastern Tanganyika Territory.

(2) On the Correct Name for the Resident and Migratory Kentish Plover of Eastern Africa.

1758.—Linnæus (Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 150 : Egypt) founded his name on Hasselquist, Iter Palæstinum, 1757, p. 255, no. 50, who under his *Charadrius alexandrinus* tells us that he found this bird on May 24, 1750, in the channel which leads the water of the Nile to Alexandria. As his bird was taken in the breeding season (May and June) we must accept this name as that of the resident Egyptian breeding bird.

1887.—Seebohm gave the name *Charadrius cantianus minutus* (Geogr. Dist. Charadriidæ, 1887, p. 169) to this race, saying it is " resident on the southern shores of the Red Sea, where it was obtained by Blanford (Geol. & Zool. Abyss. 1870, p. 429), and on the island of Ceylon, where Legge found

it breeding on the margins of the salt lagoons." Seebohm did not designate a type. He considered the possibility of this bird being referable to the *Charadrius alexandrinus* of Hasselquist (Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. 1758, p. 253). Reference to Blanford's Geol. & Zool. Abyss. 1870, p. 429, shows that under his no. 246, *Æ. niveifrons*, he found it " abundant at Zulla in June " ; and " I also shot a specimen at Massowa in August." Therefore the type-locality of Seebohm's *C. c. minutus* is Zulla, Eritrea.

1904.—Reichenow, J. f. O. 1904, p. 307, adopted Lichtenstein's *nom. nud.*, *Hiaticula elegans* (Nomencl. Av. Berol. 1854, p. 94), giving the type-locality as El Tor, Sinai Peninsula, but overlooking the fact that this *nomen nudum* had already been sunk in the synonymy of *Ægialitis alexandrina* (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xxiv, 1896, p. 277).

1915.—Hartert and Jackson, Ibis, 1915, p. 529, discovered that Seebohm's *C. minutus* was preoccupied by *C. minutus* (*C. dubius curonicus*) *Pallas*, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. ii. 1811, p. 145, and so proposed the name *Charadrius alexandrinus seebohmi* in substitution, but made the mistake of designating a type and placing the type-locality at Aripo, north Ceylon, when in actual fact the proposing of a new name for one preoccupied does not alter the type nor the original type-locality, in this case Zulla, Eritrea, Eastern Africa.

1930.—Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's Bds. of Egypt, ii. 1930, p. 537, uses Linnæus's *C. alexandrinus* for the local " Small Form " and Latham's *C. cantianus* (Ind. Orn. Suppl. 1801, p. lxvi : Kent, England) for the migratory " Large Form," giving wing-measurements of Egyptian summer birds as 101–108 mm. and migratory birds as 106–118 mm.

Through the kindness of Dr. Kadry, of the Giza Zoological Museum, we have been able to examine an adult male (G.Z.M. 9122), taken at Lake Qarûn, Fayûm, on June 18, 1922, which has a wing of 104 mm. An examination of the specimens in the British Museum Collection gives wing-measurements of 99–106 mm. for the resident birds, and 105–118 mm. for the migratory birds.

Col. Meinertzhagen obtained on May 23 and 25, 1936,

seven breeding males and two breeding females, which he has very kindly allowed us to examine. These nine birds were shot at Lake Edku, only five miles from Alexandria, and their wings measure in the males 103 to 109 mm., and in the females 103 to 109 mm.

Dr. Ticehurst has very kindly supplied us with the wing-measurements of three breeding males and three breeding females he obtained at Lake Mariotis, near Alexandria, on May 15, 1909—these give 99 to 110·5 mm.—and Mr. Hugh Whistler gives the wing-measurement of an adult female shot at Port Sudan on May 4, 1926, as 109 mm. This bird had recently bred.

Egyptian and Sudan birds therefore have a wing-measurement of 99 to 110·5 mm. and European birds 105 to 118, showing an overlap of 5 mm., and a greater measurement in European birds of 8 mm. The average of these sixteen breeding Egyptian birds is 106·3 mm. : one has a wing-measurement of 99 mm., three are 109, and two others are 110 and 110·5. The average of the eighteen Kent and Sussex birds is 109·6 mm. : four are 107, three 108, four 109, and one 110. These measurements show that there is an average difference between British and Egyptian breeding birds of 3·3 mm., and that of the eighteen British birds twelve are within the measurements of the Egyptian birds, and of the sixteen Egyptian birds seven are within the measurements of the British birds. There are thus $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. British birds which exceed the wing-measurements of Egyptian birds and 22·3 per cent. of Egyptian birds which are below the measurements of British birds.

The difference in size of bill, which some authors give as a character, is also just as unreliable as the wing-measurements. We therefore find that the evidence we have collected does not support the separation of the Egyptian and British breeding Kentish Plover into two races.

We therefore have the case of a bird resident and breeding in the coastal areas of Egypt, the Sudan, and Eritrea augmented in the northern non-breeding season by birds from Europe, which have a movement as far as South Africa.

(3) On the exact Type-locality of *Poicephalus rufiventris pallidus* van Som.

In the Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 47, van Someren gives the type-locality of his new race as North Somaliland. Dr. Ernst Mayr has very kindly examined on our behalf the type in the Rothschild Collection, now at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and informs us that it was collected by G. W. Bury on January 8, 1906, at Burao, British Somaliland.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 1936, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

1. Mr. W. B. Alexander will make a statement on the Isle of May Observatory in 1936.
2. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain will discuss the specific identity of *Corvus corone* and *Corvus cornix*.
3. Mr. J. G. Mavrogordato will show a film on Sexual aberrations of a trained Goshawk.

Bird Room

11 JAN 19[illegible]
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCC.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, December 9, 1936.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—W. B. Alexander; D. A. Bannerman; Miss P. Barclay-Smith; F. J. F. Barrington; Hon. G. L. Charteris; Maj.-Gen. Sir P. Z. Cox; A. Ezra; Miss J. M. Ferrier; J. Fisher; H. A. Gilbert; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*); Col. A. E. Hamerton; R. E. Heath; Dr. K. Jordan; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; Dr. N. H. Joy; N. B. Kinnear; Miss E. P. Leach; Miss C. Longfield; Dr. G. Carmichael Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; J. H. McNeile; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; J. G. Mavrogordato; Dr. W. Norman May; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; C. A. Norris; C. Oldham; H. J. R. Pease; H. Leyborne Popham; Dr. W. Rowan; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*); C. R. Stonor; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*); B. W. Tucker; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt; H. F. Witherby; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guest of the Club :—Dr. Finn Salomonsen.

Guests :—Lady Cox; H. F. I. Elliot; H. Grönvold; P. C. Hawker; G. N. May; J. L. Chaworth Musters; L. E. Scott; M. F. Strutt; L. S. V. Venables; Hon. David Watson.

Members of the Club, 41; Guests of the Club, 1; Guests, 10.

Mr. George Waterston sent for exhibition an example of the Booted Warbler (*Hippolais caligata*), a new species to the British Isles, which was obtained on Fair Isle on September 3, 1930, by George Stout.

Full particulars of this occurrence are given in 'British Birds,' vol. xxx. 1936, p. 226.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson showed some cones of the Swiss stone-pine (*Pinus cembra* L.) on which Thick-billed Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga caryocatactes caryocatactes*) had been feeding. He thought that they might be of interest to those present who were not familiar with the species, although its feeding-habits were, of course, well known. He had collected the specimens last August at an altitude of about 7000 feet near Zermatt, Switzerland, where the birds were common.

Mr. W. B. Alexander made the following remarks on the Isle of May Bird Observatory in 1936 :—

Observers were present on the island continuously in spring from April 4 to May 25, and in autumn from August 21 to October 8. Brief visits were also made to the island in March and the early part of August, whilst in July Mr. H. N. Southern spent some time making a census of the breeding birds.

Neither in spring nor in autumn was there a night when birds were attracted to the light, at least when ornithologists were present. The birds ringed, apart from nestling sea-birds, were almost all trapped. Some of the bushes, particularly elders, in the trapping garden have made considerable growth, and the garden appears to be increasingly attractive to migrants.

During the spring 252 birds of 40 species and subspecies were trapped and ringed, whilst the autumn catch was 326 individuals of 41 species and subspecies.

The species caught in largest numbers in spring were Blackbirds (37), British Robins (35), Willow-Wrens (33), Whitethroats (19), and Reed-Buntings (18); in autumn Willow-Wrens (72), Rock-Pipits (35), House-Sparrows (26), Meadow-Pipits (23), and Garden-Warblers (21).

Among the more interesting birds ringed were :—Ortolan, Yellow-breasted Bunting, and Little Bunting (1 each), Red-backed Shrike and Red-breasted Flycatcher (2 each), Reed-Warbler, Chiffchaff, and Siberian Lesser Whitethroat (1 each), Yellow-browed and Barred Warblers (2 each), Norwegian Bluethroats (4), Wryneck (1), and Corncrakes (2)

Interesting species seen but not captured included Grey-headed Wagtail, White-spotted Bluethroat, and Wood-Sandpiper in spring, Lapland Bunting and Dotterel in autumn.

The first Robin to appear on the island this autumn was caught on September 30, and proved to be an individual of British race, ringed on the Isle of May on September 28, 1935. In 1935 it remained on the island till October 7, having stopped for ten days; this year it only stayed three days.

Having now paid four visits to the Isle of May in autumn I may, perhaps, be justified in drawing attention to the high porportion which birds of uncommon species seem to show on this island in relation to the total number of migrants which call there. The actual numbers of migrants which alight on the island appear to be very small in comparison with the numbers visiting Heligoland, or even Holy Island, but I should judge that the percentage of rarities is actually considerably greater. For example, only 27 Buntings were caught on the island this year, but this total included an Ortolan, a Little Bunting, and a Yellow-breasted Bunting. Out of 19 Fly-catchers caught 2 were Red-breasted Flycatchers, whilst among 213 Warblers there were 2 Barred Warblers, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, and a Siberian Lesser Whitethroat.

I can only suggest that such a barren island in full view of an extensive stretch of coast does not attract birds to alight unless they are almost exhausted, and that the most tired birds are likely to be those which have made the longest journeys. This view receives some support from the fact that the two birds which have spent the longest time on the island during

my visits have also been birds which must have made the longest journeys to reach it. In 1934 the Greenland Redpoll (*C. f. rostrata*) remained from October 3 to at least October 12 (when we left). This year the Siberian Lesser Whitethroat (*S. c. affinis*) remained on the island from September 17 to October 5.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain made the following remarks on the specific identity of the Carrion- and Hooded Crows, *Corvus corone* and *cornix* :—

First of all may I say that I use the word " genus " in the sense of Hartert, and not Austin Roberts. True, in the first part of the 'Vögel d. Pal. Fauna' he separated the Jackdaws under the name of *Colœus*, but in later years, though disinclined to alter what he had written, he admitted that the use of the genera *Colœus* and *Chloris* was out of keeping with his later practice. So let us, for the purpose of the evening, take it that Raven, Rook, Crows, and Jackdaws are all included in the genus *Corvus*. You all know how common a thing in nature it is to find a common type of colouring or colour-pattern, or even colour itself, running through a genus. Many years ago Tristram humourously pointed out the colour characterstics of the Crow family : the Raven, Rook, and Carrion-Crow in deep mourning (like a lot of Scotch Elders) ; the Hoodie (and he might have added *Corvus albus* and *torquatus*) venturing on black and grey ; the Pies, which he compared to dashing widows in smart half-mourning ; the Nutcrackers with their spotted suits ; the Choughs with their bright ties and socks ; and so on. But when we come to other families and genera we meet with quite a different state of things. We cannot imagine a *Caprimulgus* wearing anything but a heather mixture. A Chat (*Œnanthe*) can do things which could never be permitted in any other genus. The same species may be sexually dimorphic in one part of its range and not in another. One male may wear a black cap or throat-patch and another may prefer a white one ; yet just because he happens to be a Chat he can get away with it, though such conduct would not be tolerated for a moment in other genera.

To return to our Crows. Here the rule is definitely either all black or grey and black—almost black and white in extreme cases.

Of these let us consider the two Crows. Between them they cover practically the whole of the Eurasian Continent. Forms of the Black Crow also extend over the greater part of North and Middle America; Africa has only been colonized in the north-east by a Hoodie, but the islands of Malaysia and even Australia are inhabited by Black Crow forms. Thus the Black Crows have a far wider world distribution than the Hoodies. The latter are a purely Old World family, ranging from typical *C. cornix* to *C. sardonius* (southern and eastern Europe, Egypt, etc.), *C. pallescens* in Cyprus, *C. minos* in Crete, the very light *C. capellanus* in Iraq, and *C. sharpii* in Persia, West Siberia, etc. The Old World Black Crows have not been much divided in Eurasia; typical *C. corone* and eastern *C. orientalis* reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Japan.

How natural then to treat them as two species, each with its own races! Yet there is much in common between them—similar habits, notes, eggs, etc.—but the strangest thing is their extraordinary jig-saw distribution, and the fact that where their ranges overlap they freely interbreed, and all gradations may be found between them, as in Scotland, West Germany, Siberia, etc.

In the Old World it is not a case of a northern and southern form, or an eastern and western one. Hoodies exist west to Ireland, Faeroes, and the Hebrides, and east to Siberia. Carrion-Crows breed west to the Iberian Peninsula and east to the Pacific. Hooded Crows nest north to the north of Scandinavia and Russia; south to Egypt, Iraq, and Persia; while Black Crows range from the forests of the Yenisei to Andalucia.

There remains the one obstacle, the existence of the two colour-patterns. Let us turn to the Jackdaws. Here we have one species, spread rather patchily over Europe, penetrating into N.W. Africa (where the Crows could never get a foothold), and with slightly differing forms, *C. cirtensis* in Algeria, *C. sœmmeringii* in Eastern Europe and Western Asia, and a really different race, *C. dauuricus*, with a grey under

surface, not unlike a small Hoodie, reaching from Central Asia to China and Japan.

But wherever *C. dauuricus* existed there was also found in smaller numbers a second " black " Jackdaw, which associated with the grey ones and yet was so obviously different that diametrically opposing views were held by those on the spot and even by the same men at different times. Swinhoe, who did so much for ornithology in China, was positive that the two birds were two species. He settled the point to his own complete satisfaction when he found that the nestling of *C. dauuricus* was a grey and not a black bird !

When Hartert wrote in 1903 he put the black form (*C. neglectus*) under a separate heading as a species, but wrote in brackets " Hochstwahrscheinlich keine Art ! " after it.

Gradually the truth has come to light. In European Jackdaws there is a smallish proportion of birds which have very little grey in the nape, almost blackish. These are the first winter birds, and when they adopt the adult plumage the grey nape becomes more apparent. It is proved that this is the case because these dark birds have the rather pointed rectrices of immaturity, while the corresponding feathers of the adults are more squared.

I do not want to give anyone the impression that I have made any discovery. For many years past Pastor Otto Kleinschmidt has taught the specific identity of the two Crows, as Newton did about half a century ago. Now he has studied the feathers of these two Jackdaws, and he has pointed out, as La Touche also admits, that *C. neglectus* specimens are, like our European dark-naped birds, all immature. So that when *C. dauuricus* is first hatched it is a grey and black bird, a Hoodie so to say, as Swinhoe had pointed out, but it moults into a Black Daw (*C. neglectus*), which, in turn, moults out into a Hoodie again !

Now, if we have a Hoodie phase twice and a Black phase once in the life of a single bird, why should not there be black and hooded geographical races of the same species ? The other objections have gone, and the colour bar has proved to be no obstacle at all.

Mr. H. F. Witherby made the following remarks :—

Mr. Jourdain has made a case for regarding the Carrion and Hooded Crows as being of one species, and if I had an equal gift of debate I think I could make as good a case for regarding them as two species. In other words, I think this is a case which cannot be proved either way, and whether we consider these birds as being of one species or two species is a matter of opinion and a matter of convenience. Perhaps there is really no such thing as a species in nature ; but unless we invent a new system of classification we must uphold it.

The fact that hybrids between these two Crows are to be found where they meet and that these hybrids are fertile *inter se* has long been known. The infertility of hybrids has also long been discarded as a criterion of a species, since a number of exceptions have been proved.

Mr. Jourdain has spoken of intergradation, but I do not agree that there is any evidence of intergradation between these two Crows. Where they meet they hybridize, and a collection of the resulting mongrels can be picked out and arranged artificially so that they pass gradually from the pure Carrion to the pure Hoodie, as was done years ago by Seebohm, and is so exhibited in a case in the hall of the Natural History Museum. But there is no natural geographical intergradation between the two birds such as one finds in subspecies as a result of climatic or other factors governing their differentiation. In these two Crows there is merely a mixture of plumage varying in individuals and produced solely by hybridization. The Hooded Crow is represented by a number of subspecies in its range, but these are all definitely Hooded Crows, and no form is more like a Carrion than any other, nor is there any form of Carrion which shows any of the grey of the Hooded.

The sequence of plumages discovered by Kleinschmidt in the Jackdaw, *C. dauuricus*, is extremely interesting, but in the Carrion- and Hooded Crows there is no suggestion of such a transition, and the plumage remains of the same pattern throughout the lives of these birds.

For many years now in this country we have regarded these Crows as of two species, and they are so regarded by

Hartert in his great work on Palæarctic birds, and I think it would be a mistake to re-swing the pendulum, referred to by Mr. Jourdain, and go back to former ideas without more convincing evidence.

I may be considered non-progressive, but taking the view of the birds (if they have views), however they may have been thousands of years ago, have they not now arrived at a stage when, provided they do not make mixed marriages, their children will certainly be like themselves, and they may claim to be stabilized as distinct species.

Colonel Meinertzhagen pointed out that he had for many years regarded *Corvus corone* and *Corvus cornix* as conspecific, and had regarded *Corvus monedula* and *Corvus dauuricus* in the same light. He thought that *Corvus corone* and *Corvus cornix* presented a most interesting example of speciation, in that *C. cornix* and *C. corone* were mutations one of the other, thus presenting evolution in accordance with Mendelian principles, whilst each mutation, reacting to climatic conditions, again presents further differences, so in the whole *Corvus corone* group we find five or six subspecies evolved from two quite different types of evolution.

With reference to the distribution of the group, it will probably be found that it has representatives in North America, in Africa, and also that the large southern Asiatic and Australian group (*C. coronoides* or *C. macrorhynchus*) will eventually be considered as geographical forms of *C. corone*.

Following some remarks by Mr. W. L. Sclater, Dr. Percy Lowe said that :—

On the overlap in distribution of the two Woodpeckers, *Colaptes auratus* and *Colaptes cafer*, in the United States of America, it might be worth mentioning that Bateson, in his 'Problem of Genetics,' had quoted J. A. Allen (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. iv. 1892) as having computed that the overlap of these two well-known species represented a band of country some 1200 miles long by 350 miles wide. This area, he says, contains some normal birds of each type, but *chiefly birds exhibiting the characters of both, mixed together in various and irregular ways.*

Dr. Lowe also said that Bateson had given a most interesting account in the same book of the case of two North American Wood-Warblers of the genus *Helminthophila* and their overlapping forms, this account having been drawn from Dr. Frank Chapman's 'North American Warblers' and Dr. Bishop's paper in 'The Auk,' xxii. 1905.

These two Warblers, known as *H. pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*, were characterized by the following colour-pattern scheme, as given by Bateson :—

H. pinus.	*H. chrysoptera.*
(1) Mantle and lower parts *yellow*.	Mantle and lower parts *grey*.
(2) Wing-bars *white*.	Wing-bars *yellow*.
(3) Cheek and throat *not black*.	Cheek and throat *black*.

In the overlapping areas two forms have been repeatedly found and described as two distinct species, viz., *H. lawrencei* and *H. leucobronchialis*. *H. lawrencei* has the underparts yellow, wing-bars white, and throat and ear-patches black; while *H. leucobronchialis* has the mantle grey, underparts practically white, wing-bars yellow, and no black throat or ear-patches. It seems impossible to believe that these two last forms owe their origin to anything else but the recombination of colour factors resulting from hybridization in the overlapping areas.

Bateson quotes Allen as giving another excellent example in the case of *Bæolophus bicolor* and *B. atricristatus*, where the intergrades, or whatever they may be called, have, as usual, received specific names.

And then there is that very interesting case of the Tanagers of the genus *Rhamphocœlus* in Central America, where, as Bateson points out, the forms known to systematists as *R. passerinii* and *R. icteronotus* exhibit the clearest phenomena of intergradation. Quite a number of other examples of the same phenomenon could of course be quoted.

Dr. Lowe also said he would like to ask Mr. Witherby that if, as he has just remarked, the offspring of a cross between the Carrion-Crow and the Hooded Crow were fertile, that was not a point for Mr. Jourdain's argument that these two forms were not distinct species.

Mr. H. F. Witherby further remarked :—

Amongst birds, over thirty years ago the late J. L. Bonhote proved that hybrids between various species of Duck were fertile, and as a result of his experiments he exhibited a duck amongst whose progenitors there were as many as five distinct species (see 'Proceedings 4th Internat. Congress,' pp. 235–264).

Maj.-Gen. Sir Percy Cox and Dr. W. Rowan also entered into the discussion.

Mr. J. G. Mavrogordato showed a film on the Sexual Aberrations of a trained Goshawk, and made the following remarks :—

At the meeting of the Club on May 13 of this year I exhibited a clutch of "British-taken" Goshawk eggs which I had hastily to explain had been laid in captivity by my trained Goshawk. This event had a sequel which may, I hope, be of interest to ornithologists as well as to falconers.

After the Hawk had finished laying her clutch of four eggs my efforts to find a male for her suddenly proved successful. By a stroke of luck the male proved to be a fully adult bird in his fourth year, and I was permitted by his owner (a complete stranger to me) to borrow him for the purposes of the experiment, I of course undertaking as far as possible to see that no harm came to him. That this undertaking was no light one may be gathered from the fact that the male weighed only an ounce or so over $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., while the female touched 3 lb. and was also in better condition.

As it was already the middle of May I considered I had not much time to lose, and after a few days, during which they were allowed to become acquainted from neighbouring bow-perches, I put them both into a stable-loft, divided in the centre by a removable partition of string netting, and made myself a "hide" in one corner. During the greater part of the day they remained separated, and the female whiled away the time in putting sticks and straw on to the platform (one yard square and one yard high) which I had erected as a basis for a nest on her side of the partition. In the early evening,

on my return from town, I would run them together and retire into hiding, ready to intervene on behalf of the unwilling suitor.

Needless to say it was Leap Year, and the female made all the running, chasing the male all over the loft, knocking him flying off the perches, and generally hunting him till she had him cornered, when he would stand at bay while she waltzed round him with wings and tail expanded, calling violently, till he managed to slip past her and gain a moment's respite. She never actually "footed" him, but this proved to be small consolation, as he eventually became so nervous that he would risk injury by dashing himself wildly against the barred windows in his efforts to avoid her; and to cut a long story short, after eight days I had to remove him in order to save him from a nervous breakdown—he had taken to rolling on his back and squeaking with terror whenever the love-sick lady approached him, and this abject behaviour soon turned her love to hate: Hell knows no fury like a Goshawk scorned.

During all this time she had been adding sticks and straw to the platform, and by now there was quite a substantial eyrie; but she proved to be an indifferent architect—many of her best pieces, such as a stick 5 feet long, that had taken her over fifteen minutes to get up from the floor and put into position, fell off again the moment her back was turned; and as she seemed to have no idea of how to make a cup or depression in the middle for the eggs, the nest began to resemble a large-scale edition of the top of a Magpie's nest. I accordingly took the matter in hand myself, and achieved quite a realistic depression, which the Hawk thenceforth managed to preserve intact.

The removal of the male did not involve any slackening of her building activities, and I assumed that all this nest-building was a prelude to a fresh clutch of unfertile eggs; but it soon began to appear probable that the bird either could not or would not lay again, and so on May 31 I put one of her old eggs into the nest by way of encouragement, and to my surprise she almost immediately started to incubate it. The next day I gave her another egg, and two days later

(by which time she was thoroughly broody) I added a half-incubated Sparrow-Hawk egg from a neighbouring wood.

During this period of incubation the most noteworthy point was the extreme gentleness with which so large a bird treated the eggs, and in particular her method, probably common to birds of prey and possibly to all birds, of walking on to the eggs on her " elbows," with the foot clenched and the long sharp claws consequently curved inwards out of harm's way. I have tried to illustrate this on the film.

By June 19 I had discovered both that her Sparrow-Hawk egg was not going to hatch and that the eggs in the nest in the wood had already done so, the chicks being then some three or four days old; and so that night, with the help of a friend, I substituted two of the chicks (choosing females for their superior size) for her eggs, getting a film record of the actual substitution and of the bird's reactions to it. She showed, as I had expected, very little surprise, accepting the chicks more or less as a matter of course, registering obvious pleasure and excitement, and at once falsifying the gloomy prognostications of numerous friends and advisers who had been as certain that she would eat them as I had been certain she would not.

So far so good; but the question remained, would she know how to feed them? And the answer to that was soon disappointingly obvious. She did not. In fact for two or three days she brooded them so unremittingly that she would not leave the nest even to feed herself, and when I drove her off returned to it immediately. This seemed at first sight a serious breakdown of instinct, but it should of course be remembered in her favour that had the chicks been newly hatched (which they were not) they would normally have gone without food for a good part of that time.

As it was, for the first three days I had to do all the feeding myself, not too easy a job with chicks of that size. On the third day I had to go to town, and deputed the mid-day meal to a friend, and on my return learnt with dismay that he had only succeeded in giving one of them one mouthful before he was chased out of the loft by the Hawk, which was plainly meditating an act of unprovoked agression.

At this stage, when it began to look as if the experiment must fail, she discovered how to feed them. At first, when the young ones stretched up for food, she would tear off a piece, meditatively swallow it herself, then bend down with beak ajar and offer the now empty beak to the chick. Later, however, the chick would occasionally manage to reach up high enough and quickly enough to snatch the piece of meat from her beak before it disappeared, and it was this which, I think, eventually gave her the right idea; and from that time onward she fed them herself, though she always had an annoying habit of eating the best and least readily procured food, such as Sparrows, herself, and giving them the beef destined for her.

The only other anxiety I had was when their quills began to sprout. She was firmly of opinion that they were supposed to be white all over, and just as she had carefully picked off any scraps of meat adhering to their white down so now she tried to pick off the untidy dark excrescences appearing through the down, and only stopped when an unusually violent tweak made the youngster squeak its protest. Luckily she learnt better before any harm was done.

Like many birds of prey, and therefore probably like the wild Goshawk, she continued to decorate the nest even when the youngsters were quite well grown, and if I scattered fresh green sprigs of larch or fir about the floor she was certain sooner or later to take them to the nest, though it was some ten days before I succeeded in filming her in the act, owing to her irregular habits in this respect. On one occasion she carried the sprig in her foot and not in the beak, as is the usual custom, and sometimes she varied the decoration by the addition of her own moulted tail-feathers and primaries. Such feathers are, of course, often found on a Hawk's nest, but have no doubt normally been moulted there.

Although I could still do anything with her or the chicks she had by the time the chicks were half-grown become very aggressive towards any strangers who accompanied me to the loft, dashing backwards and forwards past the nest, sounding the alarm, much like a wild Sparrow-Hawk in similar circumstances, and plainly contemplating attack, though she

only once clawed someone, and that fortunately only my brother. It would, however, have been quite inadvisable by now for anyone to have ventured into the loft unaccompanied.

The young birds first left the nest on July 15, and as one of them was down on the floor and looked rather lost I picked it up, meaning to put it back on the edge of the nest; while it was squeaking with fright in my grasp, however, the Goshawk dashed frantically across the room to the rescue, snatched it from my hand, and flew away with the young bird dangling from its foot, thus settling in advance any future controversy as to the ability of Goshawks to carry young Sparrow-Hawks out of the danger zone.

On July 25 the young birds were fully fledged and quite strong on the wing, and they and the old bird were taken from the loft. Their subsequent history proved disappointing. I gave one to a friend, but it did not prove a success; and the other, which I kept and partially trained, remained, as it had been in the loft, suspicious and cantankerous, until I eventually liberated it.

The film was taken by artificial light, and required some 2000 watts at a distance of a very few feet from the nest; but though the direct rays were at that range unbearable to the human eye, they did not, as appears from the film, at all distress the Hawks, which evidently share the eagle's prerogative of gazing with impunity at the midday sun.

Dr. Salomonsen showed two films from his expedition showing the life of the Eskimos in various parts of Greenland, pictures of the different landscapes, glaciers, etc., and of various species of birds, for instance the Kittiwake, Brünnich's Guillemot, Northern Phalarope, etc., and made the following remarks:—

During the summer of 1936 I made a zoological expedition to northern Greenland. The west coast between 73–78° N. lat. was investigated, and about 400 bird skins were collected. The expedition also made quantitative investigations of the marine bottom-fauna, and obtained a good collection of samples of the microfauna of the earth.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following communication :—

I have more than once called attention to the distinctness of the Iberian Chiffchaff (Ibis, 1928, p. 675 ; 1935, p. 560), for which bird, if they have recognized it, authors have used the name *Phylloscopus collybita brehmii* Homeyer.

E. F. von Homeyer described this bird in 1871 as *Phyllopneuste brehmii* (Erinnerungschr. Vers. deutsch. Ornith. 1870, p. 48) from amongst a collection of Portuguese birds collected by Dr. Rey, and received through the dealers, Messrs. Schlüter of Halle. Homeyer remarks on the darkness of the upper parts, weaker bill, and the short second primary, which is a little longer than the secondaries, and the much shorter wing, 51–52 mm. He gives measurements of *P. brehmii* and *P. rufus* (=*P. collybita*), and evidently compared a female of the one with a male of the other. As none of Homeyer's distinctions fit the Iberian Chiffchaff, I asked Dr. Steinbacher if he would kindly examine the type and give me a report on it. Homeyer's birds are in the Brunswick Museum, and three Chiffchaffs labelled *P. brehmii* were found. One of these was collected by Loche in Algeria, and Homeyer received it *via* Schneider. It was originally labelled *Phyllopneuste rufa*, and this was altered by Homeyer to *P. brehmii*. The bird is a *Phylloscopus trochilus*, as Hartert noted years ago, and this is now confirmed again by Dr. Steinbacher. The other two are labelled *Ph. brehmii* by Homeyer, and are : ♀, Morocco, 3. v. 84, and ad., Portugal, April 1869. Both were compared by Hartert and passed as *P. collybita*. This latter bird must be Homeyer's type. It has a wing of 54·5 mm. (and therefore a female), and the second primary is between the seventh and eighth. Dr. Steinbacher has compared it with German birds and informs me that it corresponds exactly with these except that it is not so worn as April and May German birds are, and is more like an autumn bird, and he suggests that the date may be wrong. As Homeyer's description does not pick out any of the points by which the Iberian Chiffchaff differs from *Ph. c. collybita*, and as Dr. Hartert and Dr. Steinbacher have both compared the type and consider it to belong

to the typical form, it is evident that the name *Ph. brehmii* can no longer be used. I propose, therefore, to name the Iberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita ibericus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* in being a little brighter, more yellowish-olive above and brighter yellow on the under wing and tail-coverts ; second primary longer, so that it is equal to 6/7 or 7 in 100 per cent. of males and in 60 per cent. of females, against 26·5 per cent. of males and 13 per cent. of females in *C. collybita*. The legs are paler. The juvenile is decidedly brighter above and more yellow below than the juvenile of *C. collybita*. Song and eggs different to those of *C. collybita* (as many have recorded).

Type.—In British Museum. Male, adult, Paul d'Argila, near Coimbra, Portugal, May 23, 1920, Witherby collection, no. 70/43. British Museum Reg. no. 1934.1.1.5045.

Remarks.—I am greatly indebted to Dr. Steinbacher for kindly examining Homeyer's birds, and to Mr. Kinnear for obtaining for me a translation of Homeyer's description.

Dr. James M. Harrison sent the following note on European Chaffinches and the description of a new race :—

The work of P. A. Hens and J. G. van Marle (' Orgaan der Club van Nederlandshe Vögelkundigen,' Jahrg. vi. vol. 2, Oct. 1933, pp. 49–58), culminating in the recognition of the English race of the Chaffinch, *Fringilla cœlebs gengleri* Kln., made it desirable to review the species and its races, my conclusions on this subject being given in a short note in ' The Ibis ' (April 1934, pp. 396–398). It occurred to me then that the range of *F. c. gengleri* might not extend to the northern limits of the British Isles. Unfortunately I had no material at the time to decide this point, but I have since been able, through the kindness of Mr. Philip A. Clancey, to examine an ample series of breeding material as well as some freshly moulted autumn and winter birds from S.W. Scotland—Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, and Stirling. These birds have been compared with material from Sweden, the south of England, Germany, Holland,

Switzerland, Western Siberia, Persia, Bulgaria, Thrace, Cyprus, Sardinia, and Crete, and are at once recognizable as being distinct.

For the Scotch bird I propose the name

Fringilla cœlebs scotica, subsp. nov.

Description.—General colour darker cinnamon-red, particularly on the ear-coverts and throat, than *F. c. gengleri*, and lacking the vinous-pink or vinous-red of *F. c. cœlebs*.

Distribution.—As known at present, S.W. Scotland.

Type.—Adult male, Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, S.W. Scotland, October 21, 1936. In my collection.

Measurements of the Type.—Wing 88; culmen 15; tarsus 17; tail 72 mm.

Measurements of the Co-types :—

Co-type I. Male, April 23, 1936, Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, Scotland :—Wing 87; culmen 16; tarsus 18; tail 67·5 mm. In my collection.

Co-type II. Male, April 23, 1936, Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, Scotland :—Wing 87·25; culmen 15·5; tarsus 19·5; tail 66 mm. In collection P. A. Clancey.

Remarks.—The backs of the Scottish birds are, as in all races of *Fringilla cœlebs*, variable, though taken on the whole they are somewhat darker in these parts than are those of the rest of the material with which they have been compared. Similarly the new subspecies shows the same variability in the number and extent of the white tips to the rectrices—that weak and inconstant character upon which the race *F. c. gengleri* was originally founded until its true and distinct differences were determined and clearly defined by the two authors quoted above.

A series of eighteen breeding males from S.W. Scotland give the following measurements :—Wing 83–91; beak 15–17; tarsus 18–20; tail 61·5–72 mm.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following description of a new form of Chukor from Crete :—

Alectoris græca scotti, subsp. nov.

Description.—In having chestnut tufts on ear-coverts and no black on lores it differs at once from *A. græca* and *A. saxatilis*;

the absence of any olive-brown wash on the lower back distinguishes it from *A. kleini*; it closely resembles *A. cypriotes*, but is, in fresh autumn plumage, a darker and purer grey on the lower back and upper tail-coverts, and has a shorter wing.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male collected at Vrisis, Crete, on September 6, 1936, by C. M. N. White and A. E. Scott. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1936.10.18.1.

Remarks.—Col. R. Meinertzhagen has already (Ibis, 1921, p. 138) commented upon the small size of Chukors from Crete. Our specimens fully confirm this, and the measurements given for the Cretan race are those taken by him together with those of our birds. It seems desirable therefore to separate the smaller form.

Wing-measurements of *A. g. scotti* :—Six males, 153–163 ; two females, 148–151 mm.

Wing-measurements of *A. g. cypriotes* :—Fifteen males, 162–170 ; nine females, (151) 154–158 mm.

The Marquis Hachisuka and M. Jean Delacour sent the following description of a new species :—

Erythrura viridifacies, sp. nov.

Description.—Male. General colour grass-green, darker on the upper parts, with concealed bases of feathers grey; upper tail-coverts dark crimson-red, with green bases; under tail-coverts and thighs brownish-buff ; tail graduated, with pointed feathers, the two central rectrices narrow, long and pointed, dark crimson ; the following pair bronze-green edged with crimson on the outer web and black in the centre, the others black edged with bronze-green on the outer web ; primaries and secondaries dull black, narrowly edged with green on the outer web ; under wing-coverts grey ; axillaries green. Iris dark brown ; beak black ; legs and feet pinkish-brown.

Distribution.—Flat country around Manila, Luzon.

Type.—Male, vicinity of Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Specimen sent alive to California, August 1935 ; died November 10, 1936. From W. S. Sheffler's collection, adult breeding ; Hachisuka collection.

Measurements of the Type.—Wing 55 ; culmen 9; tail (growing) ; tarsus 16 mm.

Female.—Similar to the male, but slightly paler green above ; throat and breast pale buffish-green, passing to light buffish-brown on the abdomen, flanks, and under tail-coverts ; upper tail-coverts pale bronze-green edged with orange-crimson ; rectrices dull black, the central pair tinged with bronze-green. Iris brown; bill black; legs and feet flesh-colour.

Remarks.—Mr. E. H. Taylor, a resident of Los Baños, Laguna Province, a town not greatly distant from Manila, found in his garden on June 26, 1920, ten Parrot-Finches which had flown into the tennis-court wire-netting with suicidal results. A few of these species came into the hands of McGregor, but could not be identified. Thereafter, for fifteen years, the bird escaped observation, and nothing further was known about it until 1935, when Dr. Canuto Manuel noticed venders in Manila peddling great numbers of them from April to July. McGregor and Manuel, in the ' Philippine Journal of Science,' lix. no. 3, March 1936, p. 325, identify them erroneously as *Erythrura trichroa*, and thought the birds were either of a migratory or of an introduced origin.

Early in 1936 several hundreds of these unidentified *Erythrura* were imported from Manila to San Francisco.

It is, however, evident from the very distinct characters of the birds that they represent an entirely new species which had so far been overlooked owing to its habitat. A similar case arose a few years ago with the Cochinchinese *Amandava*, which, although exported every year from Sargon in vast numbers, had never been collected scientifically.

This is the only species of *Erythrura* in which the adult male has an entirely green head.

Note.—A more detailed account, with a coloured plate, will be published elsewhere at a later date.

Colonel R. Meinertzhagen sent the following descriptions of six new races from Mt. Kenya, Kenya Colony :—

Francolinus jacksoni pollenorum, subsp. nov.

Description.—Birds from the high bamboos of Mt. Kenya are more heavily streaked on the upper breast, the feathers

having narrower and slightly paler margins than birds from the Aberdares. There is slight individual variation, some birds closely approaching the typical form.

Distribution.—The higher forest regions, bamboos and Hagenya, of Mt. Kenya, 9000–10,900 feet.

Type.—In my collection. Female, Mt. Kenya, 10,900 feet, 10 November, 1936.

Remarks.—Fourteen adults from the Aberdares and nine from Mt. Kenya examined.

Francolinus shelleyi theresæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Not so richly marked below as *F. s. elgonensis*, and with black spotting on the upper breast.

Distribution.—Above tree-level on Mt. Kenya (11,000–12,000 feet) on open moorland and light scrub, and on the highest ground of the northern Aberdares, a covey being seen on the actual summit of Satima.

Type.—In my collection. Male, Mt. Kenya, 12,000 feet, November 20, 1936.

Remarks.—Eight from Mt. Kenya, one from the Aberdares, and many from Mt. Elgon examined.

Onychognathus tenuirostris raymondi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from Abyssinian birds in having the crown greener, not such a purplish-blue.

Distribution.—Above tree-level on Mt. Kenya; a moorland bird.

Type.—Male, Mt. Kenya, 15,000 feet, February 16, 1936. In my collection.

Remarks.—Nine males and four females examined from Mt. Kenya. Named after Mr. Raymond Hook, who accompanied us up to the moorlands of Kenya. Wings of males 153–160, culmen from skull 28·5–31 mm. Wings of females 145–150, culmen from skull 27·5–31 mm.

Onychognathus tenuirostris theresæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—The males are very near *O. t. raymondi*, but the crown is slightly (not always) more purple. In the female the fringing of the throat and upper neck is less marked, giving the bird a less spotted appearance.

Distribution.—The higher levels of the Aberdare Mts., but descending well below tree-level, to 10,000 feet.

Type.—In my collection. Adult female, Northern Aberdares, 11,000 feet, March 29, 1936.

Remarks.—Wings of seven males, 155–160, culmens from skull 29·5–33 mm. Wings of five females, 145–141, culmens from skull 29–30 mm.

Turdoides melanops vepres, subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *T. m. clamosus*, but differs in having the upper parts generally darker, especially on the forehead and crown. Ear-coverts dark brown. Underparts with pure white chin, breast uniform dark brown, much darker than in *T. m. clamosus*, and with definite pale margins to abdominal feathers, giving a squamate appearance not unlike the underparts of *Turdoides leucopygia hartlaubi*. Under-wing without cinnamon.

Distribution.—A single male, one of a pair, shot at Nanyuki, 7000 feet, in thorn-scrub, on January 29, 1936.

Type.—In my collection. Adult male, Nanyuki, Kenya, January 29, 1936.

Measurements of the Type.—Wing 110 mm.

Remarks.—This form has nothing to do with the *sharpei* nor the *tenebrosus* groups.

Micropus melba striatus, subsp. nov.

Description.—A single bird obtained near Nanyuki (N.W. lower slopes of Mt. Kenya), at 6900 feet, on March 7, 1936, differs from *M. a. maxima* from Ruwenzori in having the lower breast and abdomen almost heavily streaked, whereas in the former it is pure white (two examined). The specimen is much darker and with a broader breast-band than *M. a. africana*.

Type.—In my collection. Adult female, Nanyuki, 6900 feet. Lower slopes of N.W. Mt. Kenya. The bird had bred.

Measurements of the Type.—Wing 220 mm.

Remarks.—We often saw large white-bellied Swifts on the moorland of Mt. Kenya. They were dark birds as our Nanyuki specimen, and they doubtless breed there, as we saw birds

entering cliff-holes at over 14,000 feet, but we never obtained a specimen. Swifts have a considerable daylight altitudinal distribution, their powerful flight making a descent of 8000–9000 feet for food a matter of a few minutes. I have little doubt that this will prove to be the breeding form of Alpine Swift from the highest ground on Mt. Kenya.

Mr. David Bannerman forwarded the following note on the Fan-tailed Warbler, *Schœnicola brevirostris*, of which he considered two races should be recognized :—

In the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' while listing all the Fan-tailed Warblers from the whole of Africa under the name *S. brevirostris* Sundevall, Mr. Sclater draws attention to the fact that "Uganda birds are certainly darker in colour than those from Natal." He goes on to point out that two names are available for the Uganda bird if it is required :—

(i.) *Sphenœacus alexinæ* Heuglin, J. f. O. 1863, p. 166 : Bahr el Ghazal (Gazelle River).

(ii.) *Schœnicola brunneiceps* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. xv. 1907, p. 172 : Asholi or Acholi country, N. Uganda.

We have over sixty specimens from all parts of its range in the British Museum, and examination of this large series shows that two races at least can be accurately determined.

The type-locality of *Bradypterus brevirostris* Sundevall (May 1850) is the Umlazi River in Natal, and this name antidates *Catriscus apicalis* Cabanis (published in the last half of 1850) with type-locality Kaffirland, Eastern Cape Province.

Examination of the specimens in the British Museum show that birds from Natal, Zululand, Cape Province, Portuguese East Africa (Tete), Southern Nyasaland, and S. Rhodesia are paler and more fulvous in colour than birds from the more northern countries.

To birds from countries in southern Africa enumerated above the typical name applies, and *Schœnicola brevirostris brevirostris* must be used for them. Occasionally an example appears with a darker crown than the majority from the same neighbourhood, but on the whole the pale coloration is uniform, although some birds are more fulvous in plumage than others.

On the other hand, I find that not only are the Uganda birds darker in colour of plumage throughout when compared with a Natal–Zululand series, but that these dark birds occur throughout the following countries: Uganda, Kenya, Abyssinia, N. Rhodesia, E. Belgian Congo, N. Angola, Cameroons, Northern Nyasaland, and Sierra Leone, as represented in the Museum collection. All are constant in their dark coloration, and particularly in their blacker tails. For these dark birds the first available name is that of Heuglin, mentioned above, and they must be named in future *Schœnicola brevirostris alexinæ* Heuglin, with type-locality Bahr el Ghazal (Gazelle River), of which *S. brunneiceps* Reichw. becomes a synonym.

Mr. David Bannerman also sent the following description of a Swamp-Warbler from Lake Tana (Tsana), which he proposed to name

Calamoecetor leptorhyncha tsanæ, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *C. l. jacksoni* (of which *C. nuerensis* is a synonym), differing from that bird in its much darker, more sooty-brown coloration, and in its larger dimensions. Bill, ♂ 15, ♀ 15–16; wing, ♂ 72, ♀ 63–68; tail, ♂ 65, ♀ 65–72; tarsus, ♂ 28, ♀ 28–30 mm. (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ measured).

Type.—Adult male. British Mus. Reg. no. 1927.11.5.331, Achera Mariam, N. shore of Lake Tsana, 6000 feet, Abyssinia, May 31, 1926. Major R. E. Cheesman coll.

Range.—Lake Tsana, Abyssinia.

Field-notes.—Said by Major Cheesman to be plentiful in reed-beds. Several pairs were seen displaying and fighting on May 30. The song is described as like an inferior Nightingale, one or two bars only. Very local in its habitat, probably resident, and almost certainly breeds at Achera Mariam; for additional field-notes see Ibis, 1935, p. 612.

Note.—Admiral Lynes has drawn my attention to this bird being distinct from *C. nuerensis*, with which it had been incorporated in the National Collection. Mr. W. L. Sclater, who was responsible for naming Major Cheesman's collection, listed the four specimens obtained under the name mentioned

above in 'The Ibis,' 1935, p. 612; he has now asked me, as I am working on this group, to name the Lake Tsana bird, though he did not for various reasons do so at the time when he published his report (*loc. cit.*) on the Cheesman collection. He is in agreement that it should be kept distinct from *C. nuerensis* (=*C. jacksoni*). Lynes (Ibis, 1934, p. 43) had already pointed out that *C. nuerensis* was a synonym of *C. jacksoni*, the type of *C. jacksoni* being a young rufous-coloured bird.

Mr. Bannerman also described a new race of Forest-Warbler, *Apalis cinerea*, from the Cameroon highlands, which he proposed to name

Apalis cinerea funebris, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female differ from *A. cinerea cinerea* in the more sooty-grey upper parts, darker crown and head, and underparts more dusky, not white washed with clear buff as in the typical subspecies.

Type.—Adult male. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1926.8.8.573, Oku, west of Kumbo, Banso Mts., Cameroons, 7000 feet, February 8, 1925. G. L. Bates collection.

Measurements.—♂♀ 12; wing, ♂ 56, ♀ 54·5; tail, ♂ 57, ♀ 55; tarsus 20 mm.

Note.—Mr. Bates has already drawn attention to the remarkable area around Oku from which he has described so many dark races. The Forest-Warbler was omitted, as he shot only one, but both he and I overlooked the fact that he had already shot this bird at Bamenda, and it is almost as dark as the Oku bird. I would refer readers to Bates's remarks in Bull. B. O. C. l. 1929, p. 34, for further information. As I am now dealing with this genus for my book, I take this opportunity to bestow a name upon the Oku Forest-Warbler, as it is so obviously distinct from *Apalis cinerea cinerea*.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following note on the *Dioptrornis fischeri* group :—

In the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' ii. 1930, p. 408, Sclater treats as separate species *D. fischeri* Rchw., *D. nyikensis* (Shelley), *D. toruensis* (Hart.), and *D. semicinctus* Hart., but

with the proviso that the last may be only a race of *D. fischeri*. The geographical ranges of these four forms show no overlap.

The subsequently described *D. fischeri amani* Sclater (Bull. B. O. C. li. 1931, p. 112) has since been removed from this group, as it is a synonym of *Alseonax cinereus kikuyuensis* van Som. (*vide* Bull. B. O. C. lvi. 1935, p. 19).

Seven specimens of *Dioptrornis* recently received by the British Museum from the Mbulu District of Tanganyika Territory are all alike; and they differ from topotypical material of *D. fischeri* in that their general colour is a paler slate, they are not so white on the lores, but are distinctly whitish on the forehead. In the last two characters the Mbulu birds agree with *D. nyikensis*, of which the type and three other Nyasaland specimens are available, together with eight from S.W. Tanganyika Territory (Lynes coll.). The Mbulu birds are, however, a trifle greyer, less brown, than the *D. nyikensis* specimens, but this may be due to the worn state of most of the latter and the age of some of the Nyasaland skins.

Through the kindness of the New York Museum the type of *D. semicinctus* Hart. has been available for comparison. As it arrived after my return to Africa Capt. C. H. B. Grant was good enough to examine it for me. He reports that it is a good form, distinguished from *D. fischeri* by its smaller size (wing 81 mm.), duller appearance above, darker belly, and incomplete eye-ring; from *D. toruensis* in being larger billed, darker above, and in having an eye-ring, though this is confined to above and below the eye only.

Of *D. toruensis* van Someren has remarked (Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 94) that it is "very like *D. fischeri* but lacking the white eye-ring round the eye," a point also stressed by Hartert (Bull. B. O. C. xxxvii. 1915, p. 4). Another difference is that the wing of *D. toruensis* measures only 79–83 mm. (seven specimens) against 85–93 mm. in *D. fischeri* and *D. nyikensis*.

I am of opinion that the four forms can be regarded as conspecific, as follows:—

D. f. fischeri Rchw., Journ. für Orn. 1884, p. 53: Moeru Mt., Tanganyika Territory; of which *D. johnstoni* (Shelley), P. Z. S. 1884, p. 555: Kilimanjaro, is a synonym.

Distribution.—From the Imatong Mts. on the Sudan border and Mt. Elgon south throughout the Kenya Highlands to Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru, and North Paré, which is probably its south-eastern limit, as I have failed to find it in South Paré or Usambara.

(N.B.—The note in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum' to the effect that *D. fischeri* ranges "through the northern drier part of Tanganyika" is misleading, in that the bird is everywhere confined to the edges and vestiges of highland evergreen forest.)

D. f. nyikensis (Shelley), Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1899, p. 35: Nyika Plateau, Northern Nyasaland; of which *D. trothæ* Rchw. Orn. Monatsber. 1900, p. 5: Rungwe, S.W. Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym.

Distribution.—Mbulu District of northern Tanganyika Territory, south through Iringa to Nyasaland, where it is known only from the Nyika and from Dedza. Also in S.E. Belgian Congo (Marungu, but not Katanga: Chapin, 'Birds of the Belgian Congo,' i. 1932, p. 260). The habitat of this form is similar to that of *D. f. fischeri*.

D. f. toruensis Hart., Nov. Zool. vii. 1900, p. 37: Fort Gerry, Toro, Uganda; of which *D. kiwuensis* Rchw., Vögel Afrikas, iii. 1905, p. 830: Kivu, is a synonym.

Distribution.—S.W. Uganda, Ruwenzori, and Kivu.

D. f. semicinctus Hart., Bull. B. O. C. xxxvii. 1916, p. 4: Kabakaba, N.E. Belgian Congo.

Distribution.—Apparently only known from the type-locality.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes and a description of a new race of White-throated Robin-Chat:—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Treron schalowi* Reichenow, and the Distribution of the Races of *Vinago wakefieldii* (Sharpe).

Through the very great kindness of Dr. Stresemann, of the Zoological Museum, Berlin, we have been enabled to examine the type of *Treron schalowi* Reichenow, Orn. Cent. 1880, p. 108.

This specimen agrees with specimens in the British Museum collection from Damaraland and Matabeleland in general colour, particularly in lacking the nuchal band, and in the slight grey tinge in the otherwise green tail. The type-locality is given as "Diamant-felder, Süd Afrika," and this bird was in a small collection sent by Herr Premier-leutenant von Velthusen.

Professor Oscar Neumann has kindly informed us, under date February 5, 1936, that the entry in the Berlin Museum register shows that this type-specimen was bought from Dr. Fischer in 1881 amongst other skins from various localities in East Africa, mostly from Mozambique and Zanzibar. This discrepancy in dates has no significance, as specimens were often entered in the Berlin Museum catalogue many years after they were received, and there is no doubt that this type was in the Berlin Museum in 1880. Leut. von Velthusen, afterwards Major Krüger-Velthusen, owned a fine egg collection, but was never in Africa. The history of this specimen is clearly very unsatisfactory, and cannot apparently now be traced, but it is not the East African form, and neither could it have come from Griqualand West. The only diamond mines known in 1880 were in that area.

Previous to 1880, Holub appears to have been the only collector in Griqualand West and who travelled from there to the Zambesi (see 'Seven Years in South Africa,' 1872–1879), and we are informed by Professor Oscar Neumann, under date August 20, 1936, that he collected many skins of birds, mammals, and other animals, which he presented to many governments, museums, societies, etc. His bird collection was some 400 skins ('Seven Years in South Africa,' ii. p. 472).

The type of *Treron schalowi* could not have been collected by Dr. Bradshaw, who was also in the Zambesi area prior to 1880, as all the birds he collected are now in the British Museum (Hist. Coll. Nat. Hist. Dep. Brit. Mus. 1906, p. 317).

What evidence there is appears to point definitely to Holub having obtained the type of *Treron schalowi*, and that he gave the specimen either to Velthusen or Fischer. We incline to

the opinion that the entry in the Berlin Catalogue is incorrect, and that it was Velthusen who presented this specimen to the Berlin Museum, especially in view of Reichenow's statement in the original description, where only Velthusen is mentioned.

On p. 171 of the Beit. Orn. Südafr., 1882, Holub remarks, under *Treron delalandi*, *T. calva*, and *T. nudirostris*, that the two specimens he received were obtained by Walsh in the Zambesi Valley. Holub himself saw Green Pigeons in the Notuary Valley, Marico District, Western Transvaal, but could not obtain any specimens. Walsh was at one time ('Seven Years in South Africa,' ii. pp. 177 & 183) a soldier, and later a gaoler at Cape Town, and was proficient in the art of preserving bird-skins, and had come to the Zambesi district to carry on business in that way.

As Holub resided at Kimberley, any specimens of his not labelled (and the type of *T. schalowi* has no original label) would have been considered as coming from there, *i. e.*, "Diamant-felder."

It is perfectly clear that the type of *T. schalowi* could not have come from Kimberley, and we cannot accept this locality any more than we can accept Asia or India of the early authors for African birds that do not occur in either place.

On the evidence discussed above we propose to fix the type-locality of *Treron schalowi* Reichw. as North-eastern Bechuanaland, as Walsh was known to have been at Panda ma Tenka and Impalera in what was then Khama's country ('Seven Years in South Africa,' ii. 1882, pp. 177 & 183). In the Ann. Trans. Mus. x. pt. 3, 1924, p. 124, Austin Roberts gives Griqualand West as the distribution of *T. s. schalowi*. This is misleading, as in a reply (March 11, 1936) to a letter from us Mr. Roberts kindly informs us that the only record he has is Reichenow's type, and that he has never seen any specimens from Griqualand West.

Sclater, Fauna S. Afr. Bds. iv. 1906, p. 159, rightly considers Damaraland and Matabeleland birds to be *T. schalowi*.

Our examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that the distribution of the races of this Fruit Pigeon, as given in the 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum,' i. 1924, pp. 176–177, must be changed, as follows :—

Treron wakefieldii wakefieldii Sharpe.

Treron wakefieldii Sharpe, P.Z.S. 1874 for 1873, p. 715, pl. lviii. fig. 2 : Mombasa, Kenya Colony, of which *Vinago schalowi chobiensis* Roberts, Ann. Trans. Mus. xvi. 1935, p. 86 : Kasane, near mouth of Chobe River, northernmost Bechuanaland (with a distinct grey collar) becomes a synonym.

Grey nuchal collar distinct. Wing 147–174 mm. (twenty-one specimens).

Distribution.—Eastern Kenya Colony from Lamu and Tana River southwards, eastern and southern Tanganyika Territory (Amani, Usambara, Rungwe), Portuguese East Africa, as far south as the Gorongoza Mts., to southern part of northern Rhodesia (Kafue River and Makalaka, west of Livingstone) ; and extreme north of Bechuanaland (Kasane, near mouth of Chobe River).

Treron wakefieldii schalowi Reichw.

Treron schalowi Reichenow, Orn. Cent. 1880, p. 108 : North-eastern Bechuanaland, of which *Vinago schalowi* var. *damarensis* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. i. 1901, p. 399 : Nukana, Okavanga River, Damaraland, South-west Africa, is a synonym.

Grey nuchal collar practically absent. Wing 167–185 mm. (six specimens).

Distribution.—Damaraland, south-west Afrca, to northern parts of Bechuanaland, and Southern Rhodesia.

(2) On the Movements of the Lesser Cuckoo during the Non-breeding Season.

We discussed this matter in the Bull. B. O. C. lvi. 1936, p. 131, and confined *Cuculus poliocephalus rochii* to Madagascar. On September 26, 1936, Dr. James P. Chapin kindly wrote and drew our attention to records and specimens of this Cuckoo from the Belgian Congo in June and August. Through the kindness of the Royal Natural History Museum, Brussels, we have been able to examine the type of *Cuculus stormsi* Dubois, Bull. Mus. Hist. Belg. v. 1887, p. 3, pl. ii. : Region du lac Tanganyika, Belgian Congo, which has a wing-measurement of 168 mm., and therefore falls within the measurements of *C. p. rochii*, but unfortunately the specimen is not dated.

And through the kindness of the Tervueren Museum the loan of a not quite adult male from Bulaimu, Belgian Congo, dated June 30, 1912. This specimen has the right wing in moult, but in the left wing the third (longest) primary has not yet been dropped; this gives a wing-measurment of 149 mm. This is within the measurment of *C. p. poliocephalus*. We also have to thank the Berlin Museum for the loan of three specimens—an undated adult male from Mabira, Uganda, with a wing-measurement of 168 mm. (this is the wing-measurement of *C. p. rochii*); a young female from Kissenji, Belgian Congo, dated June 26, 1908, wing 155 mm.; and an unsexed young bird from Mtwara, near Mikindani, south-eastern Tanganyika Territory, dated December 24, 1909, wing 145 mm. These wing-measurements agree with either race. Of these five specimens only two are adult, both of which have the wing-measurements of *C. p. rochii*, and we must therefore admit that both *C. p. poliocephalus* and *C. p. rochii* visit Eastern Africa and the Belgian Congo during the non-breeding season, i. e., *Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus*, breeding in Asia May to September, visits Africa October to April; *Cuculus poliocephalus rochii*, breeding Madagascar October to April, visits Africa May to September.

Cowan's note (Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinburgh, 1882, p. 142) that "His note changes considerably just before he takes his departure, whether to the low countries or across the sea, I cannot say," undoubtedly has a bearing on the movements to the mainland of Africa.

But the reason for the east-to-west movement between November and April (Delacour, Ois. et la Rev. Franç. d'Orn. xi. 1932), *i. e.*, during the breeding season, is obscure, and can have no bearing on the movement to the mainland. The possibility of the Lesser Cuckoo being resident and breeding in eastern Africa and the Belgian Congo should not be entirely discounted.

(3) On the Races of the White-throated Robin-Chat.

Sclater, 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum" ii. 1930, p. 476, places *Callene albigularis* Reichenow in the genus *Bessonornis*; and on p. 480 places *Callene macclounii* Shelley in the genus

Alethe. The type of *C. macclounii* is in the British Museum, and through the kindness of Dr. Stresemann, of the Berlin Museum, we have had the loan of the type of *C. albigularis*. There is no doubt that both should be placed in the same genus, i. e., *Bessonornis*. Through the kindness of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Massachusetts, we have had the loan of an adult female specimen of *Bessonornis albigularis porotoensis* Bangs & Loveridge (No. M.C.Z.148660, which is recorded in Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxxv. no. 3, 1933, p. 194). The British Museum also has the type of *Alethe macclouniei njombe* Benson. We have also had the loan of a female from Berlin which is one of a pair presented by Lynes to that Museum and recorded in the J. f. O. 1934, p. 83, under *Alethe macclounii*. Someone in the Berlin Museum has quite correctly named this specimen *Bessonornis albigularis*.

As *C. albigularis* is now placed in the genus *Bessonornis*, it is preoccupied by *Bessonornis albigularis* Tristram, 1867, and therefore Reichenow renamed his *Callene albigularis*, *Bessonornis grotei*.

The separation of these birds into two different genera caused Benson to rename *Bessonornis grotei*, and the Njombe birds agree perfectly with the type of *C. albigularis* (=*B. grotei*); and caused Bangs & Loveridge to rename *Bessonornis macclounii* Shelley, as the female specimen we have examined agrees perfectly with northern Nyasaland specimens. Benson did not compare the Njombe birds with *Bessonornis grotei*, nor did Bangs & Loveridge compare their birds with *Bessonornis macclounii*.

This bringing together of specimens has elucidated the muddle, and we find that three races can be recognized, as follows :—

Bessonornis macclounii macclounii Shelley.

Callene macclounii Shelley, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 61 : Mwenembe, Nyika Plateau, northern Nyasaland ; of which *Bessonornis albigularis porotoensis* Bangs & Loveridge, Proc. N. Engl. Zool. Club. xii. 1931, p. 94 : Igale, Poroto Mts., Tukuyu District, south-western Tanganyika Territory, becomes a synonym.

Head and mantle washed with olive-brown. Wing 71–80 mm.

Distribution.—Northern Nyasaland to Tukuyu District, Tanganyika Territory.

BESSONORNIS MACCLOUNII GROTEI Reichw.

Bessonornis grotei Reichenow, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, 1932, p. 584 : Uluguru, Morogoro District, Tanganyika Territory ; of which *Alethe macclouniei njombe* Benson, Bull. B. O. C. lvi. 1936, p. 100 : Njombe, southern Tanganyika Territory, becomes a synonym.

Head and mantle slate-grey. Wing 73–80 mm.

Distribution.—Morogoro District to Njombe District, Tanganyika Territory.

Bessonornis macclounii mbuluensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Head and mantle darker slate, and below much darker than either *B. m. macclounii* or *B. grotei*.

Distribution.—Mbulu District, Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—Male, adult, Nou Forest (7000 feet), Mbulu District, Tanganyika Territory, collected by R. E. Moreau on January 14, 1935, no. 2996. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1935.12.25.115.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 87 ; culmen 15 ; tail 70 ; tarsus 31 mm.

Remarks.—Another adult male has a wing of 82 mm.

In all three races the sexes are alike.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

Dr. J. P. Chapin will exhibit the type-specimens of *Afropavo congensis*.

11 JUL 1957
PURCHASED

Bird Room

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

14 FEB 1937
PURCHASED

NATURAL HISTORY

No. CCCCI.

THE three-hundred-and-ninety-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, January 13, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. MATHEWS.

Members present :—Miss C. M. ACLAND ; W. B. ALEXANDER ; E. C. STUART BAKER ; D. A. BANNERMAN ; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; F. J. F. BARRINGTON ; A. W. BOYD ; P. F. BUNYARD ; Dr. J. P. CHAPIN ; Hon. GUY CHARTERIS ; Brig.-Gen. G. v. H. CLARKE ; H. P. O. CLEAVE ; Major-Gen. Sir PERCY Z. COX ; A. EZRA ; Miss J. M. FERRIER ; H. A. GILBERT ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Mrs. T. E. HODGKIN ; P. A. D. HOLLOM ; Dr. K. JORDAN ; Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. P. R. LOWE ; W. P. LOWE ; C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED ; J. H. MCNEILE ; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. MAGRATH ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; C. OLDHAM ; B. B. OSMASTON ; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY ; Miss G. M. RHODES ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; Major A. G. L. SLADEN (*Hon. Treas.*) ; C. R. STONOR ; Miss D. L. TAYLOR ; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. TUCKER ; Miss E. L. TURNER ; Mrs. H. W. BOYD-WATT ; H. F. WITHERBY ; C. DE WORMS.

Guests :—Miss T. Clay; Lady Elizabeth Lindsay; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed; H. W. Mackworth-Praed; Mrs. Sclater; Miss B. N. Solly; Mrs. Tucker; G. F. de Witte.

Members of the Club, 45; Guests, 8.

Dr. James P. Chapin exhibited the type-specimen and made the following remarks on

The Discovery of Afropavo congensis.

This story has already been told in some detail in the 'Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines,' xxix. Nov. 1936, pp. 1–6; but as I show you the two mounted specimens, the only ones yet known, I may be permitted to repeat a few of the salient facts.

No one, surely, could have suspected that such a bird existed in the Congo forest except myself, and that only because in 1913 I had found a single secondary quill, adorning a native hat, at Avakubi, in the Ituri Forest. For twenty-six years I was puzzled by that feather, and preserved it carefully. In 1921 I brought it to Europe, together with a number of other feathers collected in the same way, but nowhere was I able to match it, nor were any of my friends able to offer any suggestion as to its origin. At one time I was almost ready to announce that Africa must harbour a large gallinaceous bird still unknown, and then my courage must have failed me, for I did nothing.

When at last I happened upon two mounted specimens, without locality, in the Congo Museum, where they had been since 1914, I felt confident from the start that they could not be hybrids of any sort, mainly because of my feather. Within a few days I had additional evidence from Monsieur de Mathelin de Papigny, who had eaten one in 1930 at Angumu, in the eastern Congo. At this place there is a gold-mine, located in the midst of a heavy forest that was almost without native inhabitants.

Monsieur de Mathelin was anxious that we should secure additional specimens, and at once communicated with the doctor stationed at the mine. We now have word that two

black workmen there claim to have seen this Congo Peacock in the vicinity of Angumu during the month of December 1936; so there is every likelihood that within a relatively short time more specimens can be obtained. I even have hopes of being able to visit Angumu myself, in order to learn more about the haunts and habits of the bird, and to determine whether the bird found at Angumu is racially identical with the type.

Afropavo congensis is assuredly the most interesting new bird that has been discovered in Africa for many years past. Apart from Quails, Partridges, Francolins, and the Stone-bantam, no genus of Phasianidæ (in the restricted sense) was previously known from tropical Africa. This bird, which I firmly believe to approximate an ancestral stage in the development of the true Peacocks, seems to be a left-over from the time when a broad area of equatorial rain-forest extended from West Africa to Burma and beyond.

Dr. Percy Lowe said that as regards the stumps of what had doubtless been some sort of duplicate crest springing from the vertex of this interesting bird, he was as much at a loss to explain their morphology as the lecturer. They were disposed in small groups of four or five springing from a series of pits or fovea sunk apparently in the epidermal and subcutaneous tissues. With a pair of forceps he had taken hold of one of these stumps and had kept up a steady pull, with the result that in the end he pulled out a long and thick grass-like stem which measured 23 mm. in length. Unless there was a deep frontal or parietal depression on the vertex of the skull it was difficult to say from whence such a specialized crest-feather, entirely devoid of barbs and barbules, and very stiff and hard, could have come, for in any ordinary bird of the same size and nature it was long enough to have penetrated well into the bird's brain. Although much thicker and stronger, they reminded him of the crest-plumes seen on the head of a Crowned Crane; but their actual appearance in the bird suggested that they had been cut off or removed at the level of the skin by some outside agency.

Dr. Chapin in his description of this remarkable new bird had alluded to the Pheasant-like *Lophura*. This reminded

the speaker that in a paper published in ' The Ibis ' of 1933, pp. 340–341, he had suggested that the fossil bones found in the Miocene of France, and referred by Milne-Edwards to the genus *Phasianus* (*Ph. altus*, *medius*, and *desnoyersi*), and subsequently by Lambrecht to a new genus *Miophasianus*, might more properly be referred to the genus *Lophurus*. He had suggested this on account of the remarkably long tarso-metatarsus which characterized these fossil species.

Afropavo had similarly a very long tarso-metatarsus, and although he did not for a moment suggest that *Afropavo* was a *Lophura*, the thought occurred to him that these Miocene so-called Pheasants of France might equally well have been generalized Peacocks or *Lophuras*. The Miocene period in France was characterized by a tropical climate and fauna, and as the climate became colder in the Pliocene and subsequent periods, the way to warmer conditions in Africa was open to the fauna by means of land bridges across the Mediterranean. Might not the Ituri Forest represent the last sanctuary of a generalized Peacock which formerly lived in Europe?

Mr. H. A. Gilbert made the following remarks on British Duck Decoys, based on his Report to the British Section of the International Committee for Preservation of Birds. (Sub-Committee on the Enquiry into the Status of the Anatidæ in Europe.) :—

Since ' British Duck Decoys of To-day ' (Whitaker) was published in 1918, many decoys have gone out of action. There are at present five decoys in full use, namely :—

Borough Fen (Northants).
Fritton (Suffolk).
Orwell Park (Suffolk).
The Grange (Essex).
Orielton (Pembrokeshire).

In addition, there are six more " pipe " decoys partly in use :—

Boarstall (Bucks). Used by the owner to supply himself and his friends.

Berkeley (Glos.). Not used for last five years, but now reconditioned.

Abbotsbury (Dorset). Sparingly used; chiefly for the owner and his friends' requirements.

Marsh House (Essex). One pipe restored and used during week-ends only.

Wretham (Norfolk). Two pipes in repair, but rarely used.

Hamptworth (Wilts). Two pipes, rarely used.

The average number of duck caught in British decoys during the last ten years is 11,767 per annum.

Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham has forwarded to the British Museum of Natural History an adult male specimen of *Charadrius forbesi* (Shelley) which was collected by himself at Kigoma, western Tanganyika Territory, on October 20, 1935. Mr. Pakenham remarks that he saw several on October 15 and 20, 1935, on the fringes of swamps on the Simbo and Mwandiga roads within some three miles of Kigoma, and obtained a female on October 15, 1935. Neither was breeding (both having unenlarged sex organs), and the stomachs contained mud and vegetable matter. The wing of the male measures 130 mm. This is the first record of this species occurring in East Africa, its previous known range being from Portuguese Guinea to Cameroon, at Kisantu, Matadi–Leopoldville Railway, western Belgian Congo, and Kasama, north-eastern Northern Rhodesia.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On the Races of *Vinago delalandii* (Bp.).

In the Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 176, Sclater recognizes only one form; but in vol. ii. 1930, p. 849, he recognizes three races, and rightly points out that *Vinago orientalis* Gunning & Roberts is a race of this species and not of *Vinago wakefieldii*. Van Someren in the Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1919, p. 21, gives wing-measurements of *V. d. granti* as 150–160, and of

V. d. delalandii as 178–190 mm. The type of *V. d. granti*, which is in the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1919.4.10.21), has a wing-measurement of 165 mm. Vincent (Ibis, 1934, p. 526) remarks that his Portuguese East African specimens show " absolute intergradation " between *V. delalandii* and *V. wakefieldii*. With this we are unable to agree, as the distinction between the two species is well marked, and Mr. Vincent's specimens are, in our opinion, clearly *V. delalandii*.

Wing-measurements (in millimetres) of the 82 specimens in the British Museum collection give :—

Cape Province, 177 (one specimen) ; Natal, 162–172 (five specimens) ; Zululand, 167–178 (four specimens) ; Transvaal, 166–186 (seven specimens) ; Rhodesia, 169–182 (thirteen specimens) ; Portuguese East Africa, 162–174 (twelve specimens) ; Nyasaland, 161–178 (thirty specimens) ; Tanganyika Territory, 158–172 (nine specimens) ; Zanzibar, 161 (one specimen).

As these measurements show very considerable variation in the same area, and as the characters given by Gunning and Roberts and van Someren for their races do not hold good when critically examined, we are unable to recognize more than one form of this Fruit Pigeon, *i. e.* :—

Vinago delalandii (Bp.).

Phalacrotreron delalandii Bonaparte, Comp. Rend. xxxix. 1854, p. 873 : Durban, Natal, South Africa ; of which *Vinago orientalis* Gunning & Roberts, Ann. Trans. Mus. iii. 1911, p. 109 : Boror, Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa, and *Vinago delalandei granti* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1919, p. 20 : Kilwa Kisiwani, Lindi District, Tanganyika Territory, are synonyms.

Distribution.—Eastern Cape Province, Natal, Zululand, Transvaal, eastern Bechuanaland, eastern Southern Rhodesia, eastern Northern Rhodesia, Portuguese East Africa, Nyasaland, to eastern and central Tanganyika Territory as far north as the Dodoma, Kilosa, and Dar-es-Salaam Districts, Zanzibar.

(2) On the Races of the European Cuckoo which visit Eastern Africa in the non-breeding Season.

It is of course well known that *Cuculus canorus canorus* Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 110 : Sweden, occurs in the non-breeding season over the greater part of the African continent, but this has been rather complicated in recent years by the recognition of a Spanish and Portuguese breeding race, which is said to be smaller, under the name *Cuculus canorus bangsi* Oberholser, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxxii. 1919, p. 22 : Spain, of which Stresemann (Orn. Monatsb. xxxvi. 1928, p. 19) records female specimens from Karema, March 2, 1883, and Msamvia River, South Ufipa, March 23, 1909, in south-western Tanganyika Territory, and gives wing-measurements as 192 and 197 mm. This has led us to examine the African material in the British Museum together with material from Europe, and we append the results of measurements we have taken, together with some of Spanish and Portuguese specimens kindly sent to us by Mr. H. F. Witherby, and on which his remarks in 'The Ibis,' 1928, p. 630, are based.

	Spain and Portugal.		England and other northern and central European countries.	
	Wing.	Tail.	Wing.	Tail.
Males	217–220	177–179 mm.	214–236	167–190 mm.
Females	186–207	151–161 „	198–225	155–170 „
Males	213–221	150–155 „	Mr. Witherby's measurements of birds at Madrid and Tring.	
Females	192–210	136–156 „		

Our measurements in particular show that there is a complete overlap between Spanish and northern European birds both in wing- and tail-measurements, so that it is quite impossible to differentiate between them when out of their breeding areas. *Cuculus canorus bangsi* may be considered by Palæarctic ornithologists as a recognizable race, but we are by no means satisfied about it; moreover, the Spanish and Portuguese breeding bird is much more likely to visit West than East Africa. We are, therefore, only able to recognize the typical race as a migrant to Eastern Africa.

(3) The Subspecific Status of *Centropus burchellii* Swainson and *Centropus fasciipygialis* Reichenow, and their relationship to the Central African forms.

A further critical examination of the large series in the British Museum collection shows that the characters given by Claude Grant (Ibis, 1915, p. 428) by which *C. fasciipygialis* Reichenow (Orn. Monatsb. 1898, p. 23 : Quelimane, Portuguese East Africa) may be distinguished from *C. burchellii* Swainson (Anim. Menag. 1838, p. 321 : Cape Province, South Africa) do not hold good, and as we can find no other characters, *C. fasciipygialis* becomes a synonym of *C. burchellii*.

Centropus senegalensis (Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. 1766, p. 169 : Senegal), *C. superciliosus* Hempr. & Ehr. (Symb. Phys. fol. R, 1828, pl. xi. : Southern Arabia), *C. monachus* Rüppell (N. Wirbelth. Vög. 1837, p. 57, pl. xxi. fig. 2 : Kulla, Northern Abyssinia), and *C. burchellii* Swainson are all closely related, inasmuch as all have barred upper tail-coverts in the juvenile ; but whereas neither *C. senegalensis* nor *C. monachus* have barred upper tail-coverts in the adult, the other two have these parts barred. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 186, places *C. burchellii* as a race of *C. senegalensis*. We can see no more reason for this arrangement than for placing it as a race of either of the other two, and, in fact, it might be considered much nearer to *C. monachus* with its blue head than to *C. senegalensis* with its green head ; but neither *C. senegalensis* nor *C. monachus* have barred upper tail-coverts in the adult, nor are there any bars at the base of the tail-feathers of the juveniles as is the case in *C. superciliosus* and *C. burchellii*. Of these four only *C. burchellii* can be considered as a race, the other three overlapping in their distribution.

As we have already stated, *C. superciliosus* and *C. burchellii* agree in both having barred upper tail-coverts and barred bases to the tail-feathers in both young and adult, and it would therefore appear that they are more closely related to each other than *C. burchellii* is to either *C. senegalensis* or *C. monachus*. This view is supported by the earlier confusion between *C. superciliosus* and *C. burchellii* in South Africa,

a point that has been cleared up by Austin Roberts, Ann. Transv. Mus. iv. 1914, p. 175, and Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 425, where it was shown that the young bird of *C. burchellii* had a superciliary streak and that all records of *C. superciliosus* from south of the Zambesi were really the young of *C. burchellii*, and is further confirmed by two specimens in the British Museum collection (Brit. Mus. Reg. nos. 1923.4.15.43 and 1911.12.23.986): the one unsexed fully adult collected by Swynnerton at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, on June 6, 1920, which agrees perfectly in the markings of the underparts with *C. superciliosus*, and above has on the head and neck a mixture of the dull coloration of *C. superciliosus* and the iridescent blue-back coloration of *C. burchellii*, with a very broken light-coloured superciliary streak; the other, an adult female, collected by Boyd Alexander forty miles above Chishomba, Zambesi River, Portuguese East Africa, on October 27, 1898, agrees perfectly with *C. superciliosus* on the upper side, and below agrees perfectly with *C. burchellii*.

The first specimen bears on its label the names *C. superciliosus loandæ*, *C. senegalensis fasciipygialis*, and *C. burchellii fasciipygialis*, and Mr. Jack Vincent has remarked: "Is not this surely *burchellii* sp., despite the stronger streaking below? —29. 7. 32."; and on the second specimen Mr. Vincent has written: "Full adult dress. Quite unusually plain below for *C. superciliosus*, but all else points to *C. superciliosus*. Not immature *C. burchellii*." These two birds can only be designated as *Centropus superciliosus burchellii* ≲ *Centropus superciliosus loandæ*. It should be noted that other specimens from Dar-es-Salaam and near Zumbo are normal *C. s. loandæ*.

In view of the evidence we are of opinion that *C. burchellii* is not a race of *C. senegalensis* (see also Bannerman, Rev. Zool. Afr. x. 1922, p. 125), but can be considered as a race of *C. superciliosus*, and in this way we propose to treat it.

Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 281, reviews the subspecific names of *C. superciliosus*, but does not summarize his conclusions as to how many races he would recognize. Bowen, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. lxxxiii. 1931, p. 33, recognizes a possible five races. We have studied this question, and agree with Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 187,

that only three races can be recognized, to which must now be added *C. burchellii*, making a total of four recognizable races, as follows :—

Centropus superciliosus superciliosus Hemp. & Ehr.

Centropus superciliosus Hemprich & Ehrenberg, Symb. Phys. fol. R, pl. xi. 1828 : Southern Arabia.

Distribution.—Southern Arabia, Eritrea, Sudan, Abyssinia, British Somaliland, and Kenya Colony, except Kavirondo country.

Centropus superciliosus burchellii Swains.

Centropus burchellii Swainson, Anim. Menag. 1838, p. 321 : Cape Province, South Africa.

Distribution.—South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, and Southern Nyasaland to southern Tanganyika Territory ; also eastern Northern Nyasaland (Kotakota and Karonga).

Centropus superciliosus loandæ C. Grant.

Centropus superciliosus loandæ Claude Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 54 : near Dalla Tando, Northern Angola.

Distribution.—West Africa from Congo to Angola, eastwards to Northern Rhodesia and Zumbo on the Zambesi, Portuguese East Africa, Northern Nyasaland (Nyakowa and Mwanembe), Belgian Congo, Uganda, western Kenya Colony (Kavirondo), Tanganyika Territory, and Zanzibar.

Centropus superciliosus sokotræ C. Grant.

Centropus superciliosus sokotræ Claude Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 55 : Adho Dimellus, Socotra.

Distribution.—Island of Socotra.

C. s. loandæ comes down to the Zambesi near Zumbo, which is just within Portuguese East Africa, and where it intergrades with *C. s. burchellii* ; and *C. s. burchellii* goes north through the Quelimane and Mozambique areas of Portuguese East Africa to southern Tanganyika Territory, where it intergrades with *C. s. loandæ*. The adult female from Karonga (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1898.5.1.82), eastern Northern Nyasaland, has a distinct superciliary stripe, but otherwise is a normal *C. s. burchellii*.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

IMPORTANT CORRIGENDUM.

The date of issue of the 'Bulletin,' No. CCCC, covering the Meeting of Wednesday, December 9, 1936, should read January 5, 1937, and not January 5, 1936.

Bird Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCII.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, February 17, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; W. B. Alexander ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; J. Cunningham ; J. Delacour ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; B. G. Harrison ; R. E. Heath ; Major H. P. W. Hutson ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Miss C. Longfield ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H. McNeile ; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr ; Dr. W. Norman May ; B. B. Osmaston ; Miss G. M. Rhodes ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; Major M. H. Simonds ; Major A. G. Lambart Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests :—P. W. E. Currie ; Miss C. E. Godman ; Miss E. Le Coste ; Miss P. Lambart Sladen ; L. R. Waud.

Members of the Club, 35 ; Guests, 5.

M. Jean Delacour, who has returned from a few months' visit to North America in 1936, made the following remarks on some of the wild birds that he had seen :—

From October 10 to 13, I was the guest of Dr. John Phillips at Wenham, Massachussets. There is little cultivation nowadays in New England, and the country is almost completely wooded. Autumn colours are indescribably beautiful. We spent two days in New Hampshire looking for American Woodcocks, and in spite of a very strong north wind we saw a dozen birds. This lovely species is getting very scarce and may soon disappear. We saw only two Ruffed Grouse, which seem to have diminished in numbers. We saw also many Water-birds, particularly ducks. Wood Ducks and Black Ducks are very numerous, and we came across a good many Wigeon, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, and Lesser Scaup. Small birds are very scarce in New England, and it is the poorest country for Passerine birds that I have ever seen.

In California bird-life is very abundant and attractive. I particularly wanted to see the wild geese in the Sacramento Valley. Mr. James Moffitt, the Curator of Birds in the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco, and an expert on Water-fowl, kindly took me to the Buttes district on December 16 to 18. Early in the morning thousands of geese fly up from the marshes and alight on the corn-fields to feed on the grain which has been left on the soil after the harvest. It is a wonderful sight, and in three days we must have seen several hundreds of thousands. There are White-fronted and Lesser Snow-Geese in equal numbers, and perhaps not quite so many of each of the Cackling and Hutchin's Geese, and some Ross's Snow-Geese. Only one flock of the latter is known to exist, numbering about 10,000 and holding its own. All these geese spend the winter in California and go north to breed in April. The nesting grounds of Ross's Snow-Geese are still unknown. We also saw some large Tule Geese (*Anser albifrons gambelli*), a disappearing species. The large Canada Geese, which nest on the Californian mountains, do not mix with the migrating geese, and we saw a few on higher ground, on the Sierra foot-hills, and also near the

bays. Whistling Swans are quite numerous, as well as surface-feeding ducks, particularly Pintails. We saw a good many Shovelers, Gadwalls, Wigeon, and Green-winged Teal, and we had the luck to come across a large flock of Sand-hill Cranes (about 800). There are everywhere thousands of Coots. Birds of Prey are quite numerous still, and we even saw some White-tailed Kites (*Elanus leucurus*), a vanishing species. The Yellow-billed Magpie, which has a curiously restricted range, is abundant in places, and Passerine birds in general are numerous both in species and numbers. In all the bays and coastal marshes of California Water-birds are common and not wild. These are completely protected on many of them, and there is only a two weeks open season in November in other places. Even on the small lakes and ponds of the city parks one sees a lot of wild duck, many of them diving species: Ruddy Ducks, Canvas-backs, Lesser Scaup, particularly, with a few Ring-necks, Golden-eyes, and Buffle-heads. On Tomales Bay, north of San Francisco, we saw thousands of Black Brents and Surf-Scoters. There were a few American Velvet Scoters, but Black Scoters are hardly ever seen so far south. There were lots of Golden-eyes, Buffle-heads, Ruddy Ducks, Wigeon, and some Teal and Pintails. Canvas-backs and Greater Scaup kept more to the interior of the bay. Different Grebes, two species of Pelican, several Gulls, Coots, Cormorants, etc., as well as a number of seals, helped to make the bay most attractive. Herrings were spawning, and it was amusing to see birds darting everywhere to catch fish. Out at sea, along the coast, we saw many sea-lions in the water, a good many Mergansers, a few Harlequin-Ducks, and, on the rocks, I was much interested in small mixed flocks of Black Turnstones and surf-birds.

Another interesting sight was the Californian Condors on the Lespe Canyon, some fifty miles north-east of Los Angeles. It is a narrow gorge in a beautiful mountainous country, and we could see four of these grand birds, which, in spite of strong protective measures, grow fewer every year. There are about a hundred left nowadays in the whole of California.

Needless to say, I had a wonderful welcome from all ornithologists throughout America, and I was particularly pleased to

attend the A. O. U. Annual Meeting at Pittsburg in October, as well as the Audubon Societies' Convention in New York.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a clutch of eggs taken at Constantine, Algeria, on May 16, 1920, and made the following remarks :—

In 1920 Commander R. E. Vaughan, R.N., paid a visit to Algeria and collected a few eggs. Recently he sent me a list of some of these, and amongst them was a set of *Prunella modularis* from Constantine. As this species has never, to my knowledge, been found breeding in Africa, I asked for further particulars. He informed me that he found the nest in a bush above the gorge, and that bird, nest, and eggs were typical of this species. The only other Passerine birds which lay small blue eggs here are *Œnanthe hispanica* and *Diploticus*, but the eggs when sent proved to have the characters of *Prunella* eggs rather than those of the other species named. *P. modularis* has been recorded as an occasional winter visitor to Marocco (Irby) and Algeria (Loche), but does not breed in southern Spain, and only in the mountains of Italy and, presumably, Sicily. It was not met with in Tunisia by Whitaker and does not breed in Greece, so that it is a somewhat remarkable extension of its breeding range to find it nesting well inland in eastern Algeria. Constantine lies high, about 1000 feet above the Rhummel, and is about 87 km. from the coast. There are, of course, many cases where the presence of a bird has been first detected by the evidence of its eggs. Even in England the Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) was discovered as a breeding species by means of its eggs ; and a somewhat inconspicuous and skulking species may well remain unnoticed for many years. It will be interesting to see whether this record is confirmed by subsequent observation.

Dr. Carmichael Low showed an interesting tumour in a Partridge, and remarked :—

The bird rose late with a covey, but flew well and was then shot by Dr. Gilbert Scott. On examination a large tumour, about the size of a ping-pong ball (90×75 mm.), was found

protruding from the lower part of its chest. This felt very hard and almost stony in consistency. An X-ray photograph, however, showed no sign of bone or calcification and the tumour appeared to be connected with and growing from the lower end of the sternum. A dissection confirmed this, and demonstrated that the centre of the tumour was cystic, containing necrotic material, this being surrounded by a dense fibrous wall, microscopic examination of which showed newly-formed fibrous tissue. The necrotic tissue microscopically showed a cellular structure like a sarcoma undergoing degeneration. The tumour evidently originated in the bone and then gradually, as it grew, became surrounded by the fibrous capsule. There was no evidence of a parasitic origin, nor of tubercle. The bird, an adult, was shot on January 9, 1937.

The Marquess Hachisuka sent the following note on first records of *Merops persicus chrysocercus* from Marocco :—

In the October number of the 'Bulletin,' *supra*, p. 6, Dr. D. A. Bannerman records *Merops persicus chrysocercus* and states it to be the first record from Marocco. I would like to draw attention to the fact that Dr. Hartert and I both saw and collected a few specimens of this race of the Persian Bee-eater during our trip in 1927 from Tunisia to Marocco. This fact was published by Dr. Hartert in Nov. Zool. xxxiv. 1928, pp. 341, 344, 345, 348, 366. We collected them in the middle of April between Colomb Béchar and Beni-Ounif, western Algeria, and also in Figuig. Later, on May 23, in Marocco, a bird was observed sitting on a telegraph wire between Khemisset and the Oued Beth, not far from the river. This fact constitutes the first record from Marocco.

Dr. Austin Roberts sent the following change of name :—

Apalis thoracica drakensbergensis, nom. nov.,

for *Apalis thoracica alticola* Roberts, Ann. Transv. Mus. xiii. 1929, p. 79 : Nelsburg, Carolina–Barberton road, eastern Transvaal; not *Apalis alticola* (Shelley), Bull. B. O. C. viii. 1899, p. 35 : Fife, north-eastern Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following change of name :—

Alseonax flavitarsus, nom. nov.,

for *Alseonax flavipes* Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 522 : Camma River, Gaboon ; not *Alseonax flavipes* Legge, ' Stray Feathers,' 1875, p. 367 (a name proposed for the bird known in the ' Fauna of British India ' as *Alseonax muttui*). Mr. Sclater has called my attention to this prior use of the name *Alseonax flavipes*.

Mr. Bates also sent the following note on the identity of *Saxicola sennaarensis* Seebohm, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. v. 1881, p. 391 :—

Saxicola sennaarensis was described from a single specimen collected by P. E. Botta and said to have come from Sennar, which has been supposed to be a unique type. When Vice-Admiral Lynes in 1920 got two skins of a form of the group *Cercomela familiaris* at Dilling, in the Nuba Mountains, he sent them to be compared with the type of *Saxicola sennaarensis* at Paris, and they were there said to agree very well with that. He accordingly named his two specimens *Cercomela familiaris sennaarensis* (Seebohm). But Sclater (Bull. B. O. C. xlix. p. 17) called attention to the fact that certain others of Botta's birds said to have come from Sennar must really have been collected in south-western Arabia. Botta travelled in the district of Taiz, which must be considered as the type-locality of two other Chats which he discovered, and also the locality of the type-specimen of *Saxicola sennaarensis*.

Noticing that the two species *Cercomela familiaris* and *Œnanthe chrysopygia* are coloured so exactly alike that the same description might apply to both, and that the measurements given in the description of *Saxicola sennaarensis* agree best with those of *Œnanthe chrysopygia*, I asked to have one of Lynes's above-mentioned specimens sent from the British Museum, together with an Arabian specimen of *Œnanthe chrysopygia*, for a fresh comparison of both with the type of *Saxicola sennaarensis* in the Paris Museum. M. Berlioz has made a more thorough examination than was made in Paris before. He says: " There cannot be the least doubt that our *S. sennaarensis* is to be referred to the Arabian bird called *S. chrysopygia*, and is very different from the African bird called ' *Cercomela familiaris sennaarensis*.' "

Therefore *Saxicola sennaarensis* Seebohm was described from a specimen of *Œnanthe chrysopygia* (De Filippi) collected by Botta, probably not at Sennar, but in the Taiz district of south-western Arabia. Lynes's specimens from the Nuba Mountains belong to the species called *Cercomela familiaris*, which no one else has ever obtained in that part of Africa. This *C. familiaris* group is in great need of comprehensive revision of its subspecies, and also of its generic affinities, *i. e.*, whether with *Cercomela* or with *Œnanthe*.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following descriptions of two new races of African birds :—

(1) **Geokichla piaggiæ rowei,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *G. p. piaggiæ* (Bouvier) in its more olive upper parts, and from *G. p. kilimensis* Neumann in having the orange-brown from the throat to flanks much paler.

Distribution.—Loliondo Forest, northern Arusha District, northern Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—Male adult, Loliondo Forest, Arusha District, northern Tanganyika Territory; collected by E. G. Rowe on January 21, 1936 (collector's no. Loliondo, 301).

Measurements of type.—Wing 99, culmen 19, tarsus 34, tail 79 mm.

Remarks.—Two adult males (including the type), two adult females, and one immature male examined, all from Loliondo Forest, and collected by E. G. Rowe. Wing-measurements of adult male (collector's no. 292) 102 mm., and adult females (collector's nos. 173 and 302) 98 and 99 mm. No. 302 is the mate of the type and was shot with it. Named in honour of Mr. E. G. Rowe.

(2) **Apalis murina bensoni,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *A. m. murina* Reichw. in having an ash-coloured head and ear-coverts, in being paler slate-grey on the mantle and wings, and in having a slight buff tinge on the throat; from *A. m. youngi* Kinnear in having the lower

flanks and belly yellow; and from *A. m. rhodesiæ* Gunning & Roberts in having the belly more lemon than buffy-yellow.

Distribution.—Dedza and Chongoni Mts., Dedza District, Nyasaland.

Type.—In the British Museum, adult male, Dedza Mt. (6500 feet), Dedza District, Nyasaland; collected by A. W. Benson on December 21, 1934. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1935.5.12. 47.

Measurements of type.—Wing 53, culmen 12, tail 50, tarsus 22 mm.

Remarks.—Seven specimens examined. Named in honour of Mr. A. W. Benson.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed also sent the following two notes :—

(1) On the Races of *Streptopelia decipiens* (Finsch & Hartl.).

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 166, recognizes seven races; Erlanger, J. f. O. 1905, p. 126, recognizes three races; and Zedlitz, J. f. O. 1910, p. 346, and 1914, p. 647, recognizes six and seven. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 219, recognizes six races, but appears to have difficulty in placing the specimens he enumerates, stating that they are intermediate and confusing.

The series in the British Museum collection shows that although there is not a very great amount of individual variation in birds from the same area, there is sufficient to suggest that some of the races have been founded on this, and not on characters that are borne out by the series examined.

We are therefore able to recognize only four races, as follows :—

Streptopelia decipiens decipiens (Finsch & Hartl.).

Turtur decipiens Finsch & Hartlaub, Vög. Ostafr. 1870, p. 544 : Dongola, Sudan.

Belly and under tail-coverts grey.

Distribution.—Western Abyssinia and the Sudan to central Uganda (Lango).

Streptopelia decipiens ambiguus (Boc.).

Turtur ambiguus, Bocage, Orn. Angola, 1881, p. 386 : Dombé, South Angola.

There are no specimens in the British Museum collection from Angola—the specimens from south-east Belgian Congo and Tete on the Zambesi are somewhat similar to *S. d. decipiens*, and may not be true *S. d. ambiguus*.

Distribution.—Southern Angola to south-east Belgian Congo and Tete on the Zambesi.

Streptopelia decipiens perspicillata (Fisch. & Reich.).

Turtur perspicillata Fischer & Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 179 : Nguruman, north end of Lake Nation, southern Kenya Colony ; of which *Turtur ambiguus permistus* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 808 : Maliwungu, southern Tanganyika Territory ; *Turtur decipiens griseiventris* Erlanger, J. f. O. liii. 1905, p. 126, pl. vi. fig. 2 *b* : Artu, eastern Abyssinia ; *Turtur decipiens elegans* Zedlitz, Orn. Monatsb. 1913, p. 59 : Afgoi, Webi Shebeli, Italian Somaliland, and *Streptopelia fulvopectoralis* Granvik, J. f. O. 1923, Sonderheft, p. 54, pl. i. : Kendu, Kavirondo, Kenya Colony, are synonyms.

Chest pale rose-pink ; belly white ; under tail-coverts pale grey, in some specimens white with only traces of grey, especially at the base of the feathers.

Gränvik, Orn. N.W. Kenya Colony, Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxv. 1 & 2, 1934, p. 20, remarks, under *S. d. permista* : "My birds are typical *permista*, with pure white belly and under tail-coverts." But Reichenow's description of his *T. a. permistus* reads : "Under tail-coverts lighter grey as in *T. ambiguus*, and having white edges."

Distribution.—Central Abyssinia, British and Italian Somaliland, Kenya Colony, and Tanganyika Territory to Nyasaland (Fort Johnston and Port Herald).

Streptopelia decipiens shelleyi (Salvad.).

Turtur shelleyi Salvadori, Cat. Bds. B.M. xxi. 1893, p. 419 : Niger River.

Belly and under tail-coverts grey, above paler than *S. d. decipiens*.

Distribution.—Senegal to Lake Chad.

(2) On the Status of *Pachycoccyx validus canescens* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 129 : Nhauela, Quelimane Province, Portuguese East Africa.

Mr. Vincent gives as characters the greyer appearance of the entire upper side, dark grey tail, and larger spots, especially on the upper tail-coverts. We have examined this specimen very critically and compared it with five adults in the British Museum collection, including one from Zomba, Nyasaland, and another from Dikulwe Valley (=Likulwe River), Haut Luapula, south-eastern Belgian Congo. These two specimens, which are sexed male and female respectively, are rather browner above than the type of *P. v. canescens*, and not as dark above as a male and female from the Bahr-el-Ghazal and a female from the Cameroons. We agree with Vincent that the type of his *P. v. canescens* is in " beautifully fresh plumage," whereas it is clear that all the other five specimens are not nearly so fresh, and all show signs of wearing; but the male from Zomba, when carefully compared with the male from the Bahr-el-Ghazal, is found to agree very closely with it, and we do not think that Zomba and Nhauela specimens can be separated into different races.

We are therefore of opinion that there is a slight individual variation, and that the characters given by Vincent are due partly to this cause and partly to his specimen being in remarkably clean unworn dress. We thus find that *P. v. canescens* Vincent must become a synonym of *Pachycoccyx validus* (Reichw.).

A Correction.

Mr. C. W. Benson sent the following corrections to his note on *Apalis bamendæ bensoni* (Vincent) in the 'Bulletin,' no. cccxciv., dated April 2, 1936, p. 102 :—

P. 102, line 7, "Usumbura" should read "Usambara."

P. 102. Table of measurements :—

For :

	Locality.	Sex.	Culmen from base of skull.	Wing.	Tail.
Artisornis metopias.	Mt. Rungwe, N.E. Tanganyika.	Male.	13	48	49·5
	,, ..	Female.	15·5	44	35
	,, ..	Male.	16	47	40
	,, ..	Female.	15·5	47	In moult.

Read :

Apalis bamendæ strausæ.	Mt. Rungwe, S. Tanganyika.	Male.	13	48	49·5
Artisornis metopias.	N.E. Tanganyika.	Female.	15·5	44	35
	,, ..	Male.	16	47	40
	,, ..	Female.	15·5	47	In moult.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union on Wednesday, March 10, 1937. The Dinner will be at 6.45, for 7 p.m., at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Meeting will be at approximately 8.30 p.m., in the hall of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, S.W. 7. Two private buses, each making two journeys, will transport members from the hotel to the hall.

Members who intend to dine, and who have not already notified the Hon. Secretary of the Union, must inform the Hon. Secretary of the Club, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting. Early replies will facilitate seating.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

Colour Film.—Alberta muskegs. Dr. Wm. Rowan.

Films.—Blackcock displaying, etc., etc. A. S. Phillips.
Bird Sanctuary (Farne Islands). Oliver G. Pike.

Slides and Films.—Pochard, Water-Rail, Sparrow-Hawk. Anthony Buxton.

10 APR 1937
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCIII.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the house of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, March 10, 1937, preceded by a Dinner at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Mr. H. F. Witherby, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner, and Mr. G. M. Mathews, Chairman of the Club, during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C.:—Miss C. M. Acland; W. B. Alexander; E. C. Stuart Baker; Dr. D. A. Bannerman; Miss P. Barclay-Smith; Mrs. R. G. Barnes; Miss M. G. Best; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham; S. Boorman; A. W. Boyd; G. Brown; A. Buxton; Mrs. E. Stafford Charles; Hon. G. L. Charteris; H. P. O. Cleave; A. Ezra; Miss J. M. Ferrier; H. A. Gilbert; Miss E. M. Godman; B. G. Harrison; Geoffrey Hill; Mrs. C. Hodgkin; P. A. D. Hollom; Dr. K. Jordan; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear; Miss E. P. Leach; Miss C. Longfield; Dr. G. Carmichael Low; Dr. P. R. Lowe; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; J. G. Mavrogordato; Dr. W. N. May; Mrs. D. Micholls; Mrs. C. D. Murton;

D. W. Musselwhite; E. M. Nicholson; Mrs. O. Peall; H. L. Popham, M.A.; Miss G. M. Rhodes; Dr. B. B. Rivière; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith (*Vice-Chairman*); Major M. H. Simonds; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*); Col. R. Sparrow; J. Stares; Miss D. L. Taylor; Marquess of Tavistock; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*); Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. L. Turner; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt; H. Whistler; W. H. Workman; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U.:—J. W. Bertram-Jones; H. G. Calkin; Miss B. A. Carter; R. Chislett; E. Cohen; A. J. Currie; C. T. Dalgety; N. J. S. Douglas; J. M. M. Fisher; C. G. des Forges; H. S. Gladstone; A. G. Haworth; Miss A. Hibbert-Ware; G. C. S. Ingram; Mrs. H. M. Rait Kerr; E. H. N. Lowther; E. S. May; G. C. Morris; O. G. Pike; Miss F. Pitt; J. K. Stanford; I. M. Thomson; N. Tracy; Captain L. R. Waud; C. H. Wells.

Guests:—Mrs. D. A. Bannerman; Miss D. Brown; Mrs. G. Brown; Miss C. Calkin; H. V. Casson; Mr. and Mrs. G. Charles; Mrs. R. Chislett; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Collenette; R. P. Donaldson; Mrs. H. J. S. Douglas; H. Drake; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Edwin; J. Gilbert; Mrs. H. A. Gilbert; A. C. Gladstone; Miss C. E. Godman; Mrs. A. G. Haworth; A. E. Housman; Mrs. G. C. S. Ingram; Mr. and Mrs. H. King; Miss M. Lee; Miss A. Lemon; Miss V. Lloyd; Miss Lodge; Mrs. P. R. Lowe; Hon. Sholto Mackenzie; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed; Mrs. Manson-Bahr; Dr. P. Marbin; A. McArthur; D. Money; Mrs. J. Morley; Miss I. Munro; D. Murray-Rust; O. M. Peall; W. H. Perrett; A. S. Phillips; E. V. Phillips; Mrs. Pike; Miss Preston; Mrs. W. L. Sclater; Mrs. M. H. Simonds; Mrs. A. G. L. Sladen; Miss G. L. Sladen; Miss B. E. Spender; J. W. Tangye; A. Taylor; Mrs. I. M. Thomson; Mrs. A. L. Thomson; A. Tracy; E. M. Tracy; Mrs. B. W. Tucker; Mrs. Vawill; B. Weston; Mrs. A. Williams; W. A. Williams; Mrs. H. F. Witherby; T. F. Witherby.

Members of the B. O. C., 60; Members of the B. O. U., 25; Guests 62; and 15 others. Total 162.

Professor William Rowan showed a short film, in colour, illustrating the " muskegs " of Alberta and their bird-life.

Mr. A. S. Phillips showed a film which included Blackcock challenging and displaying, chicks of the Marsh-Harrier, and various species at their nests or breeding places—Nightjar, Nuthatch, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Bearded Tit, Bittern, Common Tern, Little Tern, Guillemot, and Puffin.

Mr. Anthony Buxton showed films, each preceded by a few slides, of Pochard flocks in winter, and of old and young Water-Rail and Sparrow-Hawks at their nests.

Mr. Oliver G. Pike showed a film entitled " Bird Sanctuary," illustrating the birds breeding on the Farne Islands. The species included Kittiwake, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Cormorant, Shag, Guillemot, Puffin, Eider-Duck, and Oyster-catcher.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the description of a new *Phylloscopus* :—

Phylloscopus tibetanus, sp. nov.

Description.—Upper parts as dark as and of the same colour as in *Ph. fuligiventer*, much darker than in *Ph. weigoldi*. Underparts different shades of dark grey, in the centre of throat, breast, and belly a slight paling to greyish-white. In *Ph. fuligiventer* the underparts are olive-brown, with distinctly a dull yellow wash down the centre of the body ; in *Ph. weigoldi* much more whitish. Under wing and axillaries much as in *Ph. fuligiventer*, but no yellowish tinge. No pale isabelline edges to underside of secondaries. Short supercilium greyish-white.

Distribution.—Only known from the type-locality.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male, Bombi La, Tsari, S. Tibet, 13,500 ft., June 9, 1936. No. 3939, Ludlow collection.

Measurements.—Wing, ♂ 59, ♀ 57 ; tail, ♂ 50, ♀ 46 ; bill, ♂ 13·5, ♀ 13 mm. from junction with skull. Second primary equal to ninth or tenth.

Soft parts.—Iris brown; bill nearly black, yellowish at gape; tarsi and toes very dark brown.

Remarks.—All three specimens examined are alike, and were thought to be breeding. This new *Phylloscopus* is not a hitherto overlooked form; there is nothing like it in the British Museum collection. It is very distinct from *Ph. weigoldi*, but is possibly a race of *Ph. fuligiventer*; but until we know something about the breeding range of that bird I keep the new form as a species. This is perhaps the most remarkable discovery made by Mr. Ludlow in Bhutan and S. Tibet, and his notes will be awaited with interest.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following note :—

In recently examining material of *Sterna nereis* I was struck by its close resemblance to *S. albifrons*, and the characters which have been put forward to separate the two species seemed rather slight. *S. nereis* is said to have an all-yellow bill and white lores. However, as *S. n. exsul* has a black tip to the bill, and *S. n. davisæ* has more black before the eye than the other two valid races neither character is a very strong specific one. Moreover, *S. nereis* and *S. albifrons* appear to replace each other in Australia. On this evidence I should have advocated the view that they are conspecific but for two facts. There appears to be lack of data about the meeting of the two forms somewhere on the coast of southern New South Wales or East Victoria; no doubt information upon this point could be obtained easily in Australia. Secondly, in *S. albifrons sinensis* the inner web of the outer primary (except for the tip) consists of two more or less equally wide bands—one nearer the shaft blackish, the other outer one white. In *S. nereis* the blackish band is reduced to a very narrow line along the shaft. Hence for the present it seems better to regard *S. nereis* as a distinct species.

I find it only possible to recognize one form of *S. nereis* in Australia—the typical. Hence it must stand as *Sterna nereis nereis* (Gould) (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1842, p. 140, 1843 : Bass Strait), and *Sterna nereis horni* Mathews (Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 209, 1912, Kalgan R., W. Australia) becomes a synonym.

I am much indebted to Mr. G. Mack for examining the material in the National Museum, Melbourne, which he considers supports this conclusion.

A series of eight adults has wings 179–185 mm.

Sterna nereis davisæ Mathews and Iredale (Ibis, 1913, p. 245 : New Zealand) is evidently a valid race ; it is darker grey above, has more black before the eye, and a longer wing—194–200 mm.

Sterna nereis exsul Mathews (Bds. Austr. ii. p. 385, 1912 : New Caledonia) is much smaller, inclined to be paler above, and has a distinct black tip to the bill, though this is less extensive than in *S. albifrons sinensis* ; the frontal area of white is also more extended backwards. Wing 170–174 in four breeding adults.

I cannot separate Australian examples of *Sterna albifrons* from others from China or the south of New Guinea and Celebes, and agree with Hartert that they should be regarded as *Sterna albifrons sinensis* Gm. (Syst. Nat. i. 2, p. 608, 1789: China, ex Latham). A series of spring adults has wings 175–190 mm.

Dr. David A. Bannerman sent the description of a new race of *Eremomela scotops* from northern Angola, which he proposed to name.

Eremomela scotops angolensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Adult male and female. Most nearly allied to *E. scotops congensis*, from which it differs in having the mantle and back uniform greyish-brown not washed with green throughout as in *E. s. congensis* ; the crown alone is yellowish-green. The underparts are paler yellow on the flanks, inclining to cream-colour on the belly, particularly in the female. In this respect the new race approaches *E. scotops mentalis*, but that form is greyer above and less tinged with yellow below.

Dr. Stresemann has kindly compared these specimens in Berlin with the types of *E. congensis* and *E. mentalis*, and concurs in the above comparison.

Distribution.—Northern Angola (Malange district).

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male, Malange, North Angola, Feb. 12, 1909. Collected by W. J. Ansorge. British Mus. Reg. no. 1910.5.6.848.

Measurements and soft parts.—Bill 10·5; wing, ♂♀, 57; tail, ♂ 44, ♀ 46; tarsus 19 mm. Eye yellow-lake, bill greenish-black; legs and feet dark olive-green, toes pale raw umber.

Remarks.—I may take this opportunity of pointing out that as the arrangement of the skins in the British Museum collection did not seem to me satisfactory I sent what appeared to me to be representatives of three races to be compared in Berlin with the types of *Eremomela congensis* Reichw., *Eremomela mentalis* Reichw., and *Eremomela citriniceps* (Reichw.).

Professor Stresemann kindly undertook to examine the specimens, and wrote to me under date Feb. 19, 1937, that

(i.) In his opinion the specimen from Malange, Angola, represented an undescribed race.

(ii.) A skin (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1907.6.26.125), collected by Douglas Carruthers on the Upper Congo, 3000 ft., Jan. 7, 1907, should be referred to *Eremomela scotops mentalis*, which latter race was wrongly sunk by Sclater in the 'Systema Avium,' p. 540, into the synonymy of *E. scotops citriniceps*, both being perfectly recognisable races.

(iii.) A skin (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 87.8.12.7), collected by Bohndorff at Leopoldville, is identical with the type of *Eremomela scotops congensis*.

(iv.) It was a mistake of Reichenow's to include the locality Leopoldville under the range of both *E. congensis* and *E. mentalis* in his 'Vögel Afrikas,' iii. p. 639.

The only skin in the Berlin Museum from Leopoldville is referable to *E. congensis*, and *E. mentalis* does not occur there.

Mr. R. H. W. Pakenham sent the following description of a new Scops Owl from Pemba Island :—

Otus pembaensis, sp. nov.

Description.—In general appearance very similar to *Otus rutilus* Pucheran, Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 29 : Madagascar,

and with which it agrees in size ; but more uniform in colour both above and below, *i. e.*, practically lacking the streaking and barring of *O. rutilus*.

Distribution.—Pemba Island, Eastern Africa. Abundant in the north of the island, but appears to be absent or scarce in the south.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult, Wete, Pemba Island, collected by R. H. W. Pakenham on May 27, 1936. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.2.14.1.

Measurements of type.—Wing 153, culmen 21, tarsus 26, tail 75 mm.

Remarks.—Four adult males and two adult females examined, including the type. As in other species and races of the Scops Owls rufous phases are present, and two of the males are in this state of plumage. Capt. C. H. B. Grant, who has examined these specimens, agrees that in view of the great distance of Pemba from Madagascar it is better to treat this new bird as a species rather than a subspecies of the Madagascar bird.

Wing-measurements of the six specimens are 148–155 mm., and those of ten specimens of *Otus rutilus* 145–160 mm.

Probably breeds from August to October (the short rains begin in November). Frequents the clove-plantations, favouring the thickest and darkest parts, and also thickly foliaged trees such as mangos, big trees in graveyards, or other tall and extensive thickets. Roosts all day in such trees, but has also been found sleeping as near as 5 to 6 feet to the ground in cardamon or other undergrowth, and in the lower branches of trees. Clove-pickers while climbing in the clove-trees frequently find this Owl roosting, and can easily pick them up in the hand. They begin to leave the roosting places about 6.10 P.M. (sun-time), *i. e.*, just as dusk is falling, and at once begin to utter the monotonous monosyllabic call, " hu," sometimes uttered singly, sometimes in a succession of " hu "s uttered at half-second intervals—the latter particularly when two birds are answering one another and both give utterance simultaneously, often one in a low and the other in a high key. These calls continue to be heard fairly frequently until it becomes quite dark, when they decrease, but they may continue to be heard now and again throughout the night.

There is a certain amount of evidence of the fact that the low and high pitched calls are issued by the male and female respectively. Their small size and their partiality for sitting among thick foliage make these birds very hard to see. They may be located by the call, but this is apparently seldom uttered more than a few times from the same spot, and a noiseless departure is made. They are quick off the mark, and rapid fliers, and are constantly on the move. Frequently a bird will not a fly straight from one tree to another, but will drop with a dive from the first tree and swoop up into the second. I have heard the call uttered on the wing. They appear to be stupefied by deep slumber in the daytime, and will allow themselves to be knocked down or taken in the hand, nor do they make any great efforts to struggle or retaliate. During the daytime their vitality appears to be at a low ebb, though at night they are very active. In my experience the food is entirely of insects. Some of these may be caught in flight, but I once saw a bird within half-a-dozen paces of me spring from its perch on to the leafy tip of a slender bough, which hung down under its weight. There it clung for 5 to 10 seconds, with extended wings pressed against the foliage to preserve its balance, apparently consuming some creature it had spotted among the leaves. Nothing is known yet of its breeding habits, though I believe it mates for life. The natives believe that the bird is viviparous, this being proved by quoting persons who are alleged to have found the newly delivered youngster on the grass with the mother expiring close by, for she is believed not to survive the birth of her young. Belief in its laying eggs in a nest was smiled at as a quaint piece of unsophistication on my part! The local native names are "Kihodi" and "Kidunda," and this Owl is in some way identified with or utilized in the practice of witchcraft.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following change of name :—

Apalis murina whitei, nom. nov.

for *Apalis murina bensoni* Grant and Mackworth-Praed, Bull. B. O. C. lvii. 1937, p. 101 : Dedza Mt., Nyasaland,

NOT *Apalis bamendæ bensoni* (=*Artisornis metopias bensoni*) Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. lv. 1935, p. 174 : Chongoni Mt., Nyasaland.

Named in honour of Mr. C. M. N. White, who has kindly drawn our attention to this oversight.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED also sent the following two notes :—

(1) On the Races of *Vinago australis* Linn. occurring in Eastern Africa, and their Distribution.

We agree with Grote, Anz. Orn. Ges. Bayern, 2, 1931, p. 140, that *Vinago calva* and its races are conspecific with *Vinago australis* (Linn. Mant. 1771, p. 526 : Madagascar). Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, pp. 175, 176, recognizes three races in Eastern Africa, and with this we agree, but the material since received in the British Museum alters somewhat the distribution.

VINAGO AUSTRALIS SALVADORII Dubois.

Vinago calva salvadorii Dubois, P. Z. S. 1897, p. 784 : western shores of Lake Tanganyika, Belgian Congo, of which *Treron calva granviki* Grote, J. f. O. 1924, p. 102 : Ukerewe Island, Lake Victoria, is a synonym.

Nuchal band well defined. Forehead usually bare, showing large amount of cere, which is usually coloured coral or orange-red. Wing 159–179 mm. (twenty-five specimens).

Distribution.—Tete Province, Portuguese East Africa, northern areas of Northern Rhodesia, northern Nyasaland, eastern Belgian Congo, western and southern Tanganyika Territory (Kigoma, Kasulu, Mwanza, Iringa), Uganda, western Kenya Colony (Suk, Trans-Nzoia).

VINAGO AUSTRALIS UELLENSIS Reichw.

Vinago calva uellensis Reichenow, J. f. O. lx. 1912, p. 320 : Jakoma, Uelle River, northern Belgian Congo.

Lacking, or almost lacking, the nuchal collar. Wing 157–163 mm. (five specimens).

Distribution.—North-eastern Belgian Congo, south-eastern French Equatorial Africa, south-western Sudan to south-western Abyssinia (Jimma, Goma, Kaffa).

Vinago australis brevicera (Hart. & Goods.).

Treron calva brevicera Hartert & Goodson, Nov. Zool. xxv. 1918, p. 353 : Moshi, northern Tanganyika Territory.

Nuchal band well defined, forehead usually feathered, showing less amount of cere, which is usually coloured orange-yellow. Wing 160–179 mm. (eighteen specimens).

Distribution.—Northern and Central Tanganyika Territory east of Mwanza and Kahama ; and southern Kenya Colony east of Lake Victoria.

Specimens from the Trans–Nzoia country and Amala River, Kenya Colony ; Mwanza and Kahama, Tanganyika Territory, are somewhat intermediate in cere character between *V. a. salvadorii* and *V. a. brevicera*, as also are the birds from Ukerewe Island, southern Lake Victoria, from where Grote (J. f. O. 1924, p. 102) records specimens agreeing with both races.

Specimens of *V. a. salvadorii* from the south-eastern Belgian Congo, Northern Rhodesia, and northern Nyasaland have a certain amount of green coloration in the apical half of the tail-feathers ; but the grey predominates, especially at the basal half of the feathers, and this precludes this group from being confused with the green-tailed forms, *V. delalandii* and *V. wakefieldii*.

(2) On the Races of *Centropus monachus* Rüppell occurring in Eastern Africa.

Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 421, recognized only two races, and considers *C. cupreicaudus* Reichenow to be a species. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 185, recognizes two races, and considers *C. fischeri* Reichenow and *C. cupreicaudus* to be species. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 276, recognizes four races, attaching *C. fischeri* and *C. cupreicaudus* as races. In view of this divergence of opinion we have examined the large series in the British Museum collection, and agree with Friedmann that *C. fischeri* and *C. cupreicaudus* are races of *C. monachus*.

Through the kindness of Dr. van Someren we have had the loan of six specimens from Uganda and Kenya Colony, one of which (an adult male) was collected at Kisumu in June 1926. This Kisumu specimen is topotypical of

C. fischeri and agrees perfectly with others in the British Museum collection from Uganda to the Gold Coast. Some individuals from widely separated localities are very similar to each other—for instance, an adult male in the van Someren collection from Bugoma, western Uganda (15/7/1919), agrees with specimens from Kenya Colony and Abyssinia.

Despite this similarity in individual specimens we consider that two races can be recognized in Eastern Africa, separable on the general colour of the mantle. The light horn-colour at the base of the lower mandible in some specimens is not a diagnostic character, neither is the size of the bill, which is variable in all localities. This very careful examination leads us to the opinion that only three races can be recognized, as follows :—

Centropus monachus monachus Rüpp.

Centropus monachus Rüppell, N. Wirbelth. Vög. 1837, p. 57, pl. xxi. fig. 2 : Kulla, northern Abyssinia. Tail with green wash, mantle chestnut.

Distribution.—Eritrea and Abyssinia to Kenya Colony.

Centropus monachus fischeri Reichw.

Centropus fischeri Reichenow, J. f. O. 1887, p. 57 : Niakatschi, Kavirondo country, Kenya Colony, of which *Centropus monachus occidentalis* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 77 : Ombrokua, Ogowe River, Gabon, and *Centropus monachus angolensis* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 77 : Canhoca, north Angola, are synonyms.

Mantle mixed with or entirely dark olive-brown.

Distribution.—From the Gold Coast to northern Angola, eastwards to the Belgian Congo, the Sudan, and Uganda.

Centropus monachus cupreicaudus Reichw.

Centropus cupreicaudus Reichenow, O. M. iv. 1896, p. 53 : southern Angola.

Larger. Tail coppery-brown.

Distribution.—Southern Angola, the Zambesi Valley, and northern Bechuanaland to western Nyasaland.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

Lord Rothschild will send for exhibition paintings of two new races of Cassowary.

Bird Room.

6 MAY 1937
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCIV.

The three-hundred-and-ninety-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, April 14, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham ; P. F. Bunyard ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; B. G. Harrison ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; P. A. D. Hollom ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Dr. K. Jordan ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Miss C. Longfield ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H. McNeile ; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr ; T. H. Newman ; C. Oldham ; B. B. Osmaston ; Mrs. D. Peall ; H. Leyborne Popham ; Dr. Wm. Rowan ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Miss E. L. Turner ; H. F. Witherby ; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. C., 39.

Mr. H. Leyborne Popham made some remarks on the bird-life of his estuary in Holland.

Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr made some remarks on a recent trip in the South Atlantic and its bird-life.

Dr. J. M. Harrison exhibited a series of British Thrushes, including specimens from south-west Scotland.

Lord Rothschild sent for exhibition coloured drawings of two new subspecies of Cassowary which he proposed to name :—

(1) **Casuarius papuanus shawmayeri,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Casque depressed behind, black ; occiput black ; back of head and upper half of hind-neck and the fore-neck bright blue ; lower half of hind-neck orange ; a large patch on cheek and upper parts of side of neck bright mauve ; naked sides of neck bright mauve, bordered on hinder side with a band of orange running into orange of hind-neck.

Colour of soft parts.—Iris brown ; bill black with dark horn at tip ; feet and claws light horn colour. Stomach contained large fruits.

Type.—Female adult, Arau district of Krätke Mts., Mandated E. New Guinea, 4500 ft., Dec. 30, 1932, no. 454 (coll. F. Shaw Mayer).

Weight of type.—80½ lbs.

Remarks.—Mr. Shaw Mayer also brought back from the same district the skull and bill of a male ; the colour of this male was like that of the above-described female, according to the collector.

A third specimen, a younger male, from the Buntibasa district of the Krätke Mts., of which Mr. Shaw Mayer could preserve only the front half, differs in having the mauve cheek-patch much reduced and in bearing an orange spot on fore-neck ; the mauve lower sides of the neck are broadly and completely bordered with orange. The specimen probably represents a colour phase of *C. p. shawmayeri.* This very distinct race seems to go far to prove, by the combination

of the colours of the head and neck, that the *hecki-keyseri-papuanus* groups of forms are all subspecies of one species.

(2) **Casuarius casuarius grandis,** subsp. nov.

Description.—*C. c. grandis* has the largest wattles of any Cassowary and, unlike its nearest allies, *C. c. altijugus* Sclater, 1878 (Wandammen), and *C. c. sclateri* Salvad., 1878 (S.E. New Guinea), both of which have pink wattles, it has the wattles and chords brilliant scarlet. The occiput and head sky-blue ; cheeks and upper sides of neck dark blue ; lower sides of neck violet-purple ; the back of neck has the red much higher up than any other Cassowary, the lower half fiery orange-red, the upper half crimson-scarlet. The wattles are placed very close together and edgeways, not flat on the neck as in its allies.

Distribution.—The specimen is said to have have come from the north coast of Dutch New Guinea.

Type.—*Adult.* This bird has lived in Mr. Whitley's menagerie for many years and is still in excellent health.

Measurements of type.—Length of wattles 9 inches.

Remarks.—This subspecies belongs to that section of *C. casuarius* which is confined to the mainland of New Guinea, and has the two chords of the fore-neck running from the wattles to the under-mandible pink in the adult, whereas in *C. casuarius* L., 1758, from Ceram, the Australian Cassowary, and the forms from the Aru Islands these chords remain more or less blue like the fore-neck.

Dr. G. Carmichael Low showed a series of Redshank and Ringed Plover skins from Orkney, the specimens having been sent him by Mr. T. C. Towers of Stromness. He drew attention to the fact that he had already shown a series of similar skins to try to determine which races of these two species inhabited these islands in late winter (Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 163 ; *id.* liv. 1934, p. 126).

As regards the Redshanks, two of the birds, he considered, represented the Icelandic race *Tringa totanus robusta*, while the others were ordinary *Tringa t. totanus*. The two Icelandic birds were identified alive in the field as being of unusual size,

and this was borne out later by their weights and measurements. The wing in one of these measured 168 mm., in the other 163 mm., with weights of 160 and 164 grammes respectively. The subjoined table shows the details.

ORKNEY REDSHANKS.

1 & 2, *Tringa totanus robusta* ; 3–10, *Tringa totanus totanus.*

No.	Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Age.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill from feathers.	Tarsus.	Wt. in gm.
1..	Stromness, Orkney.	13. ii. 1937	♂	Adult	168	64	43	50	160
2..	„	20. ii. 1937	♀	„	163	65	40	48	164
3..	„	13. ii. 1937	♂	„	151	58	39	44	128
4..	„	„	♂	„	153	63	43	50	137
5..	„	„	♂	„	148	56	42	45	115
6..	„	„	♂	„	163	66	43	46	142
7..	„	„	♂	„	151	60	40	44	112
8..	„	„	♂	„	153	62	41	45	121
9..	„	„	♀	„	159	62	43	46	132
10..	„	„	♀	„	163	66	43	44	142

Dr. Low said the question of what race the other specimens belonged to could not be answered, as the newly described British race *Tringa t. britannica* did not differ in any way from *Tringa t. totanus* in winter plumage or in size. Time and space would not permit of a discussion here on the validity of the subspecies, but it seemed rather anomalous to make a new race on such slender evidence as a slight difference in summer breeding plumage for birds exactly the same in measurements and plumage in winter, and led one into the absurd position that one could not say that *Tringa t. totanus* had ever appeared in the British Isles, nor to what race all the winter Redshanks in collections belonged. Surely winter characteristics must be taken into account as well as summer in forming new subspecies. He hoped to return to this point later, but for the moment would call his Orkney birds

Tringa t. totanus, as they were much more likely to be wintering birds from the north than locally bred birds staying there for the winter. Again, there was no evidence, so far as he knew, as to what the plumage of the Redshank breeding in the Orkneys was like.

The Ringed Plover, as the table showed, were all *Charadrius h. hiaticula* and not *C. h. tundræ*, the northern race.

Charadrius h. hiaticula.

No.	Locality.	Date.	Sex.	Age.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill from feathers.	Tarsus.
1.....	Stromness.	20. ii. 1937	♂	Adult.	137	60	15	25
2.....	,,	,,	♂	,,	135	59	15	25
3.....	,,	26. ii. 1937	♀	,,	138	64	15	24
4.....	,,	,,	♀	,,	136	64	14	25
5.....	,,	,,	♀	,,	135	65	15	24

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new race of Shearwater :—

Puffinus diomedea disputans, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *P. diomedea* (Scopoli) (*P. kuhlii* olim) in having the base of the primaries with much less white, and in having a longer wing and tail.

Distribution.—Seas around Kerguelen Island to South Africa.

Type.—An unsexed and undated adult in the British Museum, collected on Kerguelen Island and presented by the Admiralty. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. ~~1111~~.721.

Measurements of type.—Wing 350 ; culmen 51 ; tarsus 52 ; middle toe with claw 70 ; tail 140 mm. *P. diomedea* from Malaga measures : wing 341 ; tail 128 mm.

Mr. Mathews also sent the following two notes :—

(1) In the 'Analyst,' vol. iii. Jan. 1836, p. 211, S. D. W[ood] proposed the genus *Puffinus* Willoughby (not Brisson) on the score of " scientific accuracy " to replace *Fratercula* Brisson,

as used by Selby. He also proposed the name *flavirostris* for the Common Puffin.

A synonym of the Common Puffin is :—

1836. *Puffinus flavirostris* S. D. W[ood], 'Analyst,' vol. iii. p. 211. (For this same bird C. T. Wood in the 'Ornithological Guide,' 1836 (June ?) proposed the name *Puffinus vulgaris*.)

In the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. vol. xiii. May 1, 1844, p. 365, Gould described *Procellaria flavirostris*, and this bird is now placed by many workers in the genus *Puffinus*. Therefore Gould's name becomes a homonym.

(2) The following synonym must be added to the Storm-Petrel :—

Procellaria hirundo Forster, Synop. Cat. Dec. 1817, p. 33 : new name for *P. pelagica* L.

The Marquess Hachisuka sent the following note on *Afropavo congensis* Chapin :—

It may be interesting to the readers of the 'Bulletin' to know that a number of rare and striking birds have been erroneously identified either as members of an already well-known species or as hybrids. *Afropavo congensis* is a case of the former, *Pseudotadorna cristata* is an example of the latter, while a number of wild hybrids have been described as distinct species. Such examples are found among the Birds of Paradise. I have so far seen only the photograph of *Afropavo congensis*, and to me it has remarkable resemblances to a rare hybrid of the Guinea-fowl and Peafowl recorded by Baur of Berlin and Ghigi of Bologna (Hachisuka, 'Variations among Birds,' pl. xvii. 1928). This hybrid has the general shape of the female *Afropavo*. However, the important difference is that the hybrid lacks the crest and the spur. It is evident that the secondary sexual and the well-developed characteristics of the true species disappear in the hybrid, and this particular bird has neither the crest and train of the Peacock nor the helmet of the Guinea-fowl. Such a bird exhibits the primitive ancestral type. Therefore, from this point of view, I am able to support Dr. Chapin's view that his Congo Peacock is in the ancestral stage of the development of the Asiatic Peacock.

Mr. J. D. Macdonald and Major F. O. Cave sent the following note on a new record from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan :—

The Levant Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter brevipes*).

Astur brevipes Severzow, Bull. Soc. Imp. des Nat. Mosc. xxiii. (pt. 2), 1850, p. 234.

Type-locality.—Veronezh, Southern Russia.

Juv. female, in worn plumage. Collected by Major F. O. Cave on Dec. 25, 1936, at Towath, Boma Plateau, S.E. Sudan ; wing 231 mm., now in the British Museum (Natural History).

Remarks.—This Sparrow-Hawk had not been recorded south of the latitude of the Sinai Peninsula until Philby obtained an adult male near Mecca, in Arabia, on January 16, 1936 (see Bates, Bull. B. O. C. vol. lvi. 1936, p. 131). The present specimen, a lone bird, was found sitting in a small tree on the edge of a rocky escarpment on the Boma Plateau.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following note on *Phyllastrephus fischeri* Reichw. and related forms :—

I have had available in the British Museum a well-distributed series of over ninety specimens. I am indebted to the Director of the Berlin Museum for his courtesy in sending the types of *P. fischeri* Reichw. and *P. placidus münzneri* Reichw., and to the Director of the Budapest Museum for the type of *P. dowashanus* Madz.

I follow Sclater (Syst. Av. Æth.) in regarding *P. placidus* Shelley as a subspecies of *P. fischeri* Reichw., of which I note that *P. sokokensis* van Som. has been admitted to be a synonym (Nov. Zool. xxxviii. 1932, p. 343). Birds from Kilimanjaro and from eastern Kenya Colony have the brownest heads in contrast to the olive of their backs, and also they have underparts of a creamy-white colour. In specimens from Nyasaland the head does not contrast so strongly with the back, but there is everywhere considerable individual variation, and birds can be matched from localities as far apart as Usambara and south Nyasaland. Moreover, there is a complete intergradation of characters from north and south. Specimens

from Mbulu District are rather brighter below than typical birds.

I agree with van Someren (Nov. Zool. xxviii. 1932, p. 343) that *P. keniensis* Mearns cannot stand. Van Someren has, in the J. E. A. & Uganda N. H. Soc. xxxvii. 1930, p. 197, described *P. f. marsabit.* The two Marsabit specimens before me do not support this separation.

Birds from Usambara have been distinguished by Grote (Orn. Mon. xxvii. 1919, p. 63), under the name *P. f. cognatus*, as having darker sides to their bodies than *P. placidus.* In the adequate series now available in London no difference in this respect is perceptible.

It may be noted that *P. sucosus* was originally described (Journ. f. Orn. 1903, p. 544) as a race of *P. cabanisi*, which Sclater (Syst. Av. Æth.) places as a synonym of *P. icterina.* However, both Chapin (*in litt.*) and Bannerman ('Birds of Tropical West Africa,' iv.) regard *P. cabanisi* and *P. icterina* as separate species because, although their plumage is so similar, there is a great difference in the size of the two forms, and their ranges overlap. I agree with these conclusions. I consider further that *P. sucosus* is not closely related to *P. cabanisi*; it has a much smaller bill and altogether less yellow on the underparts.

Another form, *P. hypochloris* Jackson, has been treated as a subspecies of *P. cabanisi* by van Someren (Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 185), but he has since followed the Syst. Av. Æth. in regarding it as a species (Nov. Zool. xxxviii. 1932, p. 343). This view is undoubtedly the correct one. Of *P. sylvicultor* (Neave) a good series is available.

I therefore consider the *P. fischeri* group to consist of the following forms :—

Phyllastrephus fischeri fischeri Reichenow, Orn. Centralb. 1879, p. 139 : Muniumi, near mouth of Juba River, southern Italian Somaliland ; of which *P. sokokensis* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xliv. 1923, p. 7 : Sokoke Forest, Malindi, Kenya Colony, is a synonym. Wing, ♂, 78–89 ; ♀, 76–80 mm. *Distribution.*—Juba River to the Pangani. A lowland forest bird, apparently confined to the coastal belt below 1000 feet.

Phyllastrephus fischeri placidus (Shelley), P. Z. S. 1889, p. 363 : Kilimanjaro ; of which *P. f. keniensis* Mearns, Smiths. Misc. Coll. lxi. (25) 1914, p. 2 : Mt. Kenya ; *P. f. marsabit* van Someren, J. E. A. & Uganda N. H. Soc. xxxvii. 1930, p. 197 : Mt. Marsabit ; and *P. f. cognatus* Grote, Orn. Monatsb. xxvii. 1919, p. 63 : Usambara, northern Tanganyika Territory, are synonyms. Wing, ♂, 75–90 ; ♀, 72–89 mm. *Distribution.*—Kenya Colony east of the Rift Valley, including Marsabit, south through Kilimanjaro, Usambara, Nguru, Uluguru, to south Nyasaland (Zomba, Cholo, Chiradzulu) and Portuguese East Africa (Mt. Namuli). A hill forest bird from between 1200 and 7750 feet.

Phyllastrephus fischeri sucosus (Reichw.). Journ. Orn. 1903, p. 544 : Bukoba, Tanganyika Territory ; of which *P. dowashanus* Madz., Arch. Zool. i. 1910, p. 176 : Ngare Dowash (=Upper Amala River), S.W. Kenya Colony, is a synonym. Wing, ♂, 77–85 ; ♀, 70–76 mm. *Distribution.*—Southern Sudan, Uganda, Kenya Colony west of the Rift, south across the Tanganyika border to Loliondo. Hill forest, 5000-10,000 feet.

Phyllastrephus fischeri sylvicultor (Neave), Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. viii. 1909, p. 130 : Dikulwe River (=Likulwe River), Haut-Luapula, Belgian Congo. Wing, ♂, 89-97; ♀, 82–87 mm. *Distribution.*—The Katanga district of the Belgian Congo and the northern end of Northern Rhodesia, east to the Muchinga escarpment.

Phyllastrephus münzneri Reichw.

Phyllastrephus placidus münzneri Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. xxix. 1916, p. 181 : Sanyi, Mahenge District, southern Tanganyika Territory.

A large bird which I consider should be placed as a species. A male specimen collected by me in the Middle Sigi Valley (600 ft.), Usambara, northern Tanganyika Territory (B.M. Reg. no. 1933.6.1.35), agrees very closely with the type. Wing, ♂, 92–95 mm. *Distribution.*—Mahenge District and East Usambara, Tanganyika Territory. It is probably a bird of lowland

evergreen forest which should be looked for at the seaward foot of the Uluguru Mts. In Usambara it has been found only in the lowland evergreen forest of the eastern foothills; with *P. f. fischeri* along the coast less than 30 miles away to the east; and *P. f. placidus* within 6 miles to the west; but *P. münzneri* is completely separated from the latter by a belt of over 1000 ft., where I have been unable to find any of these forms.

I have to thank Capt. C. H. B. Grant for examining for me the type of *P. p. münzneri* Reichw.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On *Melittophagus sharpei* Hartert.

In the Bull. B. O. C. x. 1899, p. xxvii, Hartert gave this name as a substitute one for *M. cyanostictus* as used by Sharpe in the Cat. Bds. B. M. xvii. 1892, p. 48, as he considered Cabanis's *M. cyanostictus* had been described from Natal. In the Nov. Zool. vii. 1900, p. 35, he attaches his *M. sharpei* to British Somaliland and designates a type (see also Nov. Zool. xxxi. 1924, p. 112), having meanwhile discovered that Cabanis's type of *M. cyanostictus* came from Mombasa, Kenya Colony, and not from Natal. This reshuffle of a name and designating a type was of course incorrect and cannot be upheld. In the Bull. B. O. C. Hartert clearly amends (substitutes) *M. sharpei* for *M. cyanostictus*, which he erroneously thought came from Natal, and when he found that his assumption was incorrect he should have placed his *M. sharpei* as a synonym of *M. cyanostictus*.

No type or new type-locality can be designated for a substitute name, and in this case the type-locality of *M. sharpei* is clearly Mombasa. Friedmann, Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1930, p. 362, has been misled in believing that Hartert named a new race from British Somaliland, when in actual fact he renamed Cabanis's *M. cyanostictus* (see also Claude Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 295).

We are unable to see any constant differences between specimens from British Somaliland and Abyssinia to north-

eastern Tanganyika Territory, and, therefore, agree with Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 222, as to the distribution of *M. pusillus cyanostictus*.

(2) On the Type-locality of *Melittophagus bullockoides* (Smith).

All authors give South Africa only. Smith, S. Afr. Quart. Journ. 2nd ser. 1834, p. 320, gives South Africa, and in his Illus. Zool. S. Afr. pl. ix. 1838, he states that "it was not until the expedition attained the 25° of S. lat. that this bird was discovered, though north of that it appears not uncommon." The expedition referred to is that from Graaf Rienet to Kuruman and the Limpopo, the most northerly point reached being 23° 26′ S. lat. In following out his route on a modern map we find that he crossed the 25° S. lat. either just within or just without the present boundary of the western Transvaal. We therefore consider that Marico District, western Transvaal, South Africa, may be fixed as the exact type-locality of *Melittophagus bullockoides* (A. Smith).

(3) On the Relationship of *Melittophagus variegatus* and *Melittophagus lafresnayii*.

It has generally been accepted that *M. variegatus* and *M. lafresnayii* are two distinct species, both having one race each.

On placing these four forms together we are at once struck by the similarity of three of them and the dissimilarity of one. In *M. variegatus*, *M. lafresnayii*, and *M. v. bangweoloensis* we find a similar blue band on the lower neck and a similar tone of colour on the belly, whereas *M. oreobates* has a deep blue-black band on the lower neck and a much darker cinnamon tone on the belly. As both *M. variegatus* and *M. oreobates* occur in Uganda, they cannot be races of each other, but it does appear that of the two *M. variegatus* is much more nearly allied to *M. lafresnayii* than to *M. oreobates*. We, therefore, propose the following re-arrangement :—

Melittophagus variegatus variegatus (Vieill.).

Merops variegatus Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xiv. 1817, p. 25 : Malimbe, Portuguese Congo.

No blue on forehead.

Distribution.—Gabon, and Angola to Cameroons, east to N.E. Belgian Congo and Uganda.

Melittophagus variegatus lafresnayii (Guér.).

Merops lafresnayii Guérin, Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 322: Abyssinia.

Forehead blue.

Distribution.—Eritrea and Abyssinia.

Melittophagus variegatus bangweoloensis C. Grant.

Melittophagus variegatus bangweoloensis Claude Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 55: Luena District, north-eastern Rhodesia.

Paler below and blue neck-band darker and deeper in tone.

Distribution.—Lake Bangweolo District and south-eastern Belgian Congo.

Melittophagus oreobates Sharpe.

Melittophagus oreobates Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 320: Save, northern side of Mt. Elgon, Uganda.

Neck-band deep blue-black, chest to belly rich cinnamon.

Distribution.—Southern Sudan and Uganda, through southern Kenya Colony, to north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

Mr. A. P. Marshall will make remarks on New Guinea Birds.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard will exhibit an interesting series of Blackbirds' eggs.

Bird Room 512.

1937 MASSD

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCV.

The four-hundredth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, May 5, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; W. B. Alexander ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; Miss P. Barclay-Smith ; F. J. F. Barrington ; P. F. Bunyard ; J. Fisher ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. P. Leach ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; Mrs. D. Peall ; Dr. Wm. Rowan ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Major A. G. L. Sladen (*Hon. Treas.*) ; The Marquess of Tavistock ; Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Hon. Sec.*) ; B. W. Tucker ; Mrs. H. W. Boyd Watt ; C. M. N. White ; H. F. Witherby ; C. de Worms.

Guest of the Club :—A. J. Marshall.

Guests :—Sir Geoffrey Archer ; Miss L. Lodge ; S. O. Olson ; Miss M. S. van Oostveen ; A. G. D. Russell.

Members, 29 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Guests, 5.

Mr. A. J. Marshall made the following remarks on a recent expedition to New Guinea which was made after the Oxford University Expedition to the New Hebrides concluded in 1934 :—

Eleven months were spent in this great tropic island. The ornithology of the country is closely interwoven with native legends and superstition. The native dress and extraordinary head-dress used by certain savage stone-age tribes of the hinterland are composed almost entirely of the plumes of various indigenous birds.

New Guinea and Australia are geologically allied, and the zoology of the two countries very similar. As in Australia, Parrots, Cuckoos, Kingfishers, and Pigeons are extremely common. Groups such as the Ptilinorhynchidæ and the Birds of Paradise are confined to the Australasian region and are found on both sides of the Torres Straits.

The Cassowary is one of the most important of all animals—next to the pig—in the lives of the savage Melanesian or Papuan. Flesh for meat, stiff bristles for head-dress, wing-spines for nasal ornaments, thigh bone for the wicked yellow bone stabbing-daggers.

The smuggling of Birds of Paradise plumes (until the Australian government declared the traffic illegal) across the border into Dutch New Guinea is now extinct. The Chinese buyers of Hollandia in Netherlands New Guinea spoke regretfully of the good old days of the plume trade when single skins were often worth as much as ten pounds, and rarely below five pounds, and also told of the difficulties of the jungle and travel through unexplored territory. They described their efforts to observe the peerless display of the Birds of Paradise. In my opinion the most satisfactory place in the world to observe the display of New Guinea Birds of Paradise is in the Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park, London !

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a long series of Blackbird's (*Turdus m. merula*) eggs, mostly from the Kentish orchards, including erythristic and cyanic varieties, and made the following remarks :—

I exhibit the whole series so that members may the better

to able to realize how enormously the eggs of the Blackbird vary, not only in general characteristics but also in size and shape. They were nearly all taken in the Kentish orchards, where they are very destructive to the crops; consequently annual Blackbird drives are organized in the autumn, when hundreds are killed.

No. 1. A clutch of six, showing true erythrism, from the collection of the late Mr. Heatley Noble, M.B.O.U. These were taken on April 4, 1914, at Park Place, Berks. The ground-colour is pure white; the markings are finely stippled pale bright reddish-brown, and evenly distributed, which gives the whole egg a pinkish appearance. An egg from a similar clutch is figured in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' Eggs,' vol. iv. pl. viii. fig. 1; and also by Dresser, 'Eggs of the Birds of Europe,' pl. ii. fig. 8. These are from Ireland. Similar clutches found in Waterford are mentioned by Ussher in 'Birds of Ireland,' p. 7. According to published data erythrism in the eggs of the Blackbird must be considered of fairly rare occurrence, and a clutch of six apparently unique.

The weights and measurements of this clutch are particularly interesting and confirm a discovery I made some years ago while weighing a long series of the erythristic eggs of the Blackcap (*Sylvia a. atricapilla*)—*i. e.*, that erythristic varieties are not only larger but also heavier than typical eggs.

Average weight, six eggs: 0·400 g.

Measurements: 30·5×21·3 mm.

Rey (48 eggs, probably all continental), 0·384 g., 28·6× 21 mm.

Nos. 2 & 3. Two clutches of four each, from Kent. These are exceptionally beautiful eggs. A third clutch by the same bird during the same season was also secured, which are exactly similar. A clear case in support of the persistent urge for the reproduction of the species. The fourth clutch was, no doubt, successfully hatched. Seven of these eggs have the large ends heavily capped with very rich reddish-brown pigment; the remaining portion is almost unmarked. One egg has a broad band near the small end. An almost exactly similar variety is figured in the British Museum 'Catalogue,' pl. viii. fig. 2.

No. 4. This is a remarkable clutch from the Noble collection, and was taken in Berks on April 9, 1897. It is the only clutch I have ever seen showing vein markings—i. e., *emberiza*-like scrolls of pale reddish-brown on pale bluish ground.

No. 5. A clutch of six from Northants, taken by the late Mr. C. E. Weight, is of outstanding interest. The ground-colour of pale greenish-blue is almost obscured by finely stippled markings of rich reddish-brown, which coalesce and form caps at the extreme large ends.

Cyanic clutches without any sign of markings, and others in the transition stage, were included in the series.

In conclusion, Mr. Bunyard said that he had examined large numbers of Blackbirds' eggs, and had found that those from Kent were not only richer in the ground-colour but also in the markings, due, probably, to the fact that large quantities of fruit are eaten, which keeps the birds in a strong healthy condition, which would obviously stimulate the reproductive organs and enrich the blood pigments and bile secretions.

A clutch of five British Song Thrush (*Turdus ericetorum ericetorum*) showing true erythrism were also exhibited for comparison. Except in the arrangement and distribution of the markings they do not differ from the erythristic eggs of the Blackbird.

Mr. C. M. N. White sent the following description of a new race of *Pitta* :—

Pitta novæguineæ goodfellowi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from typical *P. n. novæguineæ* in being smaller and averaging darker green above. The sexes do not differ materially in size.

Distribution.—Appears to occur only in the Aru Islands.

Type.—♂, Silbattabatta, Aru Islands, Feb. 1904. Collected by W. Goodfellow. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1907.12.11.63.

Measurements of type.—Wing 97 ; bill from skull 26 mm.

Remarks.—Sixteen birds examined from New Guinea (Mimika R., Dorey, Aleya, Mullen's Harbour) have wings 101–110, once 98 mm. This is confirmed by measurements recently published by Mayr (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.

vol. lxxiii. Art. 1, p. 88, 1937). He finds that twelve birds from Wuroi, Kubuna, etc. have wings 100–106 mm. Wing of twelve examples from the Aru Islands 93–101, once 104 mm. Also four examples from Mysol, Salwatti, and Gagi, with wings 105–108 mm., evidently belong to the typical race.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following five notes :—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Zosterops toroensis* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1904, p. 133 : (Toro) Kitamba, in Uvamba :—

The name of this bird points to the type having been collected in Toro, Uganda, but this is not so, and the type-locality given by Reichenow is Toro : Kitamba, in Uvamba (Emin).

This bird was collected by Emin Pasha, and reference to the map in Stuhlmann, Mit Emin Pascha ins Herz von Afrika, 1894, shows that he travelled on the west side of Ruwenzori, and was not on the Uganda side in Toro at all. Neither Kitamba or Uvamba are given in this map, but it is undoubtedly the same place as Buamba of the modern maps. The correct type-locality of *Zosterops toroensis* Reichenow is therefore : Kitamba, Buamba, western slopes of Ruwenzori Mts., eastern Belgian Congo.

(2) On the Status of *Bycanistes cristatus brevis* Friedmann, Proc. N. Engl. Club. ii. 1929, p. 32 : Mt. Lutindi, Usambara Mts., northern Tanganyika Territory :—

Friedmann gives for Abyssinian birds the following wing-measurement :

Males, 380–385 mm.
Females, 345–353 mm.

And for birds from Kenya Colony southwards :

Males, 345–377 mm.
Females, 321–333 mm.

Bangs and Loveridge, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 1933, p. 176, support this race, giving average of seven males as 350 mm. and five females as 337·5 mm. Their specimens are from central and south-western Tanganyika Territory.

We have measured the wings of the series in the British Museum collection, as follows :—

Abyssinia :

Males, 365–383 mm. (six specimens).

Females, 338–345 mm. (three specimens).

Kenya colony southwards :

Males, 352–392 (seventeen specimens).

Females, 318–356 (nine specimens).

On this showing we are unable to recognize a northern and a southern race, but one species only, ranging from Abyssinia to Southern Rhodesia.

(3) On the Type-locality of *Lophoceros deckeni* Cabanis, in V. d. Decken, Reisen, iii. pt. 1, 1869, p. 37, pl. vi. :—

In the description it is stated that the original label of the type was lost and therefore Cabanis gave the general type-locality of Ost-Afrika. In volume ii. of the Reisen, Map viii. gives clearly the travels of Von der Decken between 1860 and 1865. These include two trips from Wanga and Mombasa to the Wachagga country.

As Von der Decken's Hornbill is found in this area, we suggest that the type-locality of *Lophoceros deckeni* Cab. be fixed as Seyidie Province, Kenya Colony.

(4) On the Type-locality of *Strix woodfordii woodfordii* (A. Smith), S. Afr. Quart. Journ. 2nd ser. 1834, p. 312 :—

In the S. Afr. Quart. Journ. Smith gives only South Africa, and does not mention this bird in his ' Illustrations to Zoology,' 1849. All authors have quoted South Africa only. Sclater, Fauna S. A. Bds. iii. 1903, p. 246, gives Knysna and other localities. As Knysna appears to be its most western limit in the Cape Province, we consider the type-locality of *Strix woodfordii woodfordii* (Smith) can be fixed as : Knysna, Cape Province, South Africa.

(5) On the Type-locality of *Glaucidium capense castaneum* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. i. 1893, p. 62 :—

In the Systema Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 244, the type-locality Andundi is given as probably near Bukoba, Tanganyika Terri-

tory. Reichenow states that the type was collected by Emin Pasha and Stuhlmann, and reference to Stuhlmann's Mit Emin Pascha ins Herz von Afrika (Deutsch Ost. Afrika, i.) 1893, p. 629, and Map, shows that Andundi is in the Wambuba country, *i. e.*, eastern Ituri District, north-eastern Belgian Congo.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

Agenda.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear will exhibit some birds from Southern Arabia.

BRITISH MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY
ZOOLOGY
3 JUN 1937
PURCHASED

Bird Room

3 JUL 1937
URCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCVI.

The four-hundred-and-first Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, June 9, 1937.

Chairman : Mr. G. M. Mathews.

Members present :—E. C. Stuart Baker ; Dr. D. A. Bannerman ; F. J. F. Barrington ; Brig.-Gen. R. M. Betham ; The Hon. G. L. Charteris ; J. Cunningham ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; Miss E. M. Godman ; Capt. C. H. B. Grant (*Editor*) ; P. A. D. Hollom ; Dr. E. Hopkinson ; N. B. Kinnear ; Miss E. Leach ; Miss C. E. Longfield ; Dr. G. Carmichael Low ; J. G. Mavrogordato ; T. H. Newman ; B. B. Osmaston ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; The Marquess of Tavistock ; B. W. Tucker ; C. de Worms.

Guests :—Arnold Carmichael ; Miss E. C. Godman.

Members of the B. O. C., 24. Guests, 2.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited, on behalf of the Marquess Hachisuka, a restoration of the Solitaire, *Ornithaptera solitaria*.

Messrs. Bates and Kinnear made the following remarks, and described a new race of Sandgrouse :—

Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Ingrams, the British Museum was able to send a native collector to work under him in the Hadhramaut for five months. The collection consists of 266 specimens belonging to 38 species, one of which, a close-barred Sandgrouse, appears to be new.

Pterocles lichtensteinii ingramsi, subsp. nov.

Male.—Differs from *P. l. lichtensteinii* on the upper side in the much lighter colour, owing to the reduction in width of the dark transverse bars to less than half that of the pale sandy portion of the feather. In typical birds the reverse is the case, which has the effect of making the whole bird appear darker. On the underside the bars are also reduced, but not to such an extent. The female is also much paler in colour from the same cause.

Distribution.—Only known from the Hadhramaut, east of Wadi Do'an (N.W. of Mokalla).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult, end of January 1937, Wadi Izhab, Hadhramaut, Arabia. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.6.5.1.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 182 mm.

Remarks.—Mr. Ingrams's collector obtained nine examples from Wadi Izhab, Tarib, and Al'Aibara, the wing-measurements of which are : five males, 178–192 ; four females, 174–180 mm. Colonel Boscawen in 1933 collected one at Wadi Sir. Mr. H. St. J. Philby brought back a female from Wadi Ansas, near Shabwa, farther to the north-west, and a male obtained on the same day, but farther west, is intermediate. A male shot by Colonel Boscawen at Wadi Dhurra, in Nisab area, west of the Wadi Do'an in April 1933 is typical, and a female he obtained in Socotra in March 1934 cannot be distinguished from Hadhramaut specimens.

Mr. Philip A. Clancey sent the following description of a new race of Wren from West Scotland :—

A series of winter and early spring Wrens from south-west Scotland—Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, and Lanarkshire—has,

after very careful comparison, proved to be distinct from any described race of Wren.

I propose, therefore, to name the new Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Like *Troglodytes t. troglodytes*, but very much darker and richer brown on the upper parts, especially on the crown and nape ; underparts as in *Troglodytes t. troglodytes*.

Distribution.—As known at present, south-west Scotland, but in all probability the greater part of the western Scottish mainland.

Type.—Adult female, Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, S.W. Scotland, April 24, 1937. In my collection.

Measurements of the Type.—Wing 47 mm. ; culmen 14 ; tarsus 17 ; tail 30.

Remarks.—Three males from this region have wings of 51 mm., which is greater than that given by Hartert for the typical race.

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. James M. Harrison for his kind assistance.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following description of a new Shearwater from Bunbury, Geographe Bay, South-western Australia :—

Puffinus leptorhynchus, sp. nov. The Slender-billed Shearwater.

Description.—Entire upper surface blackish-brown, including the upper wing-coverts ; entire under surface white, including the under tail-coverts ; the dark feathers encroach on to the cheeks below the lower mandible ; primaries and tail-feathers blackish-brown ; under-wing lining greyish-white, most of the feathers with dark shafts, recalling the same feathers in *Puffinus griseus*, a wide band of dark feathers running round the wing and surrounding the white ; bill dark blackish-horn colour, darkest at the tips of both mandibles and lighter towards the base, especially of the lower mandible, where it becomes flesh colour ; outer toe and part of the outside of

the tarsus dark horn colour, inner toes and side of the tarsus flesh colour ; webs cream.

Distribution.—South-western Australian Seas.

Type.—An unsexed adult from Bunbury, collected in April 1937 by Mr. F. Lawson Whittock. In my collection.

Measurements of Type.—Total length 370 mm. ; wing 228 ; culmen 36 ; tarsus 42 ; tail 71 ; middle toe and claw 48 ; closed bill at the base 8 mm. wide by 8 mm. deep.

Remarks.—The finding of this bird in south-western Australian seas is not a surprise, as many observers maintained that a form of *lherminieri* was to be found in these waters. We must await further specimens before we can say accurately whether it is a subspecies of that form or not. The measurements negative that idea at present. Perhaps it is nearer the Manx Shearwater.

Mr. Mathews also sent the following notes on Storm-Petrels, with a description of a new species and a new genus :—

The examination of the type of *Diomedea gilliana* Coues, 1866, kindly sent over to the British Museum by Dr. R. M. de Schauensee from Philadelphia, proves it to be a *D. melanophris* bird, as most workers thought. As it is an immature, with no locality, I place it as an absolute synonym of *D. melanophris*.

The other type sent over is that of Gould's *Thalassidroma leucogaster*. It has proved to be a *Fregetta grallaria* bird, and is *Fregetta tristanensis*, 1932, the correct name being *Fregetta aquerea* Kuhl, 1820.

This has upset all my deductions drawn up in the past, when I considered a bird in the British Museum to be Gould's type ; and, therefore, the following correction should be made. Although I know that corrections seldom or never overtake the original mistake, yet I hope all fellow workers will see this note. Gould's type of *T. leucogaster* is described as follows :—

Adult.—General colour above dark blackish-brown, the head darker ; the feathers of the back with white fringes ; rump and upper tail-coverts white, the longest white feathers have a dark subterminal band and a white fringe, the dark feathers of the back extending on to the white rump, almost dividing it ; these dark feathers have white fringes ; outer

tail-feathers with outer web dark, inner web white, like all but the central pair, which is all dark. Wing 155 mm.; tail 76; bill 14; tarsus 38; middle toe and claw 23.

As it has been proved that *Thalassidroma leucogaster* of Gould is a synonym of *Procellaria grallaria* Vieillot, then the genus *Fregetta* must be used for that species instead of *Fregettornis*, thus leaving *T. tropica* without a genus.

The genus *Cymodroma* Ridgway, 1884, must follow *Fregetta* as a synonym, as it is a substitute name for *Fregetta* Bp., not *Fregata* Brisson.

In *Procellaria grallaria* the toes, with claw, are more or less of equal length, and the claws "plate-shaped," as Kuhl noticed in 1820; and Bonaparte in 1855 said of them, "larges ongles de Grèbes presque humains."

In *Thalassidroma tropica* the inner toe and claw is from 2·5–3 mm. shorter than the middle toe and claw, and the claws more pointed than in *F. grallaria*.

I propose the new generic name

FREGODROMA

for *Thalassidroma tropica* Gould as indicated by the construction of the foot.

Some writers maintain that the toes and claws of *Procellaria grallaria* of Vieillot (type in the Paris Museum) are the same as these parts of *Thalassidroma tropica* of Gould (type in the British Museum). To anyone who examines these birds this is obviously not the case. It has been claimed that the toes of *F. grallaria* are rounded because they have been worn away by digging their nesting tunnels, but in the fully matured young which have not left the nest this same shape is observed in the claws.

In the large subspecies of *F. grallaria*, called by Murphy *F. titan*, the middle toe and claw is as long or longer than the same part of *F. tropica*; the minimum measurement as given by Murphy is 23·6 mm. and the maximum 27, the average being 25·1 mm. for the males and 25·8 for the females. In the typical *F. grallaria* the average length of the middle toe and claw is about 23 mm.

In the form I called *Fregetta leucogaster deceptis* in 1932 the foot is shaped as in *F. tropica*, and so differs materially from the foot of *F. grallaria*.

As *T. leucogaster* of Gould is a synonym of *F. grallaria*, then the form I described as *F. deceptis* must be admitted as a species. In all the specimens examined, the inner toe and claw is much shorter than the middle toe and claw. In all the *F. grallaria* I have examined, including the type, the toes, with claws, are of about equal length.

The genus *Fregodroma* can be defined as follows :—

Differs from *Fregetta* Bp. in having the inner toe and claw shorter than the other toes (in *F. grallaria* and subspecies the toes, with claws, are of about even length) ; also in having the bill smaller and more compressed.

Now we come to the bird considered by me in the past to be the type of Gould's *Thalassidroma leucogaster*. It resembles a bird in the British Museum collected at sea by Macgillivray on January 7, 1853, in lat. 37½ S., long. 42° E., north-north-west of the Crozets, in the Indian Ocean, which can be described as new as

Fregodroma leucothysanus, sp. nov.

Adult.—General colour above blackish-brown, darker on the head ; the feathers on the back with white fringes ; rump and upper tail-coverts white, with no dark subterminal band so often seen in *Fregetta grallaria* ; the dark feathers on the back encroach on to the white rump in the middle in a V-formation ; tail-feathers black, with the base of the inner web white, central four all black ; shafts of all the tail-feathers light-coloured at the base ; upper wing-coverts brownish ; primaries black ; throat whitish, the feathers with dark tips ; breast like the hind neck ; lower chest, sides of the body, and vent white, the long outer under tail-coverts with a broad sub-terminal dark band and fringed with white ; central ones white with a faint fringe of brown ; axillaries white ; inner under-wing lining pure white ; next series brown with white edges ; round the head of the wing a band of dark-brown ; under aspect of primaries grey towards the base, where the outer edges of the feathers are fringed with white. The tarsus is booted in front, reticulated behind.

Type.—In the British Museum. Collected at sea by Macgillivray, January 7, 1853, in lat. 37½° S., long. 42° E., north-north-west of the Crozets, Indian Ocean. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1855.10.23.10.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 160 mm.; bill 14; tail 72; tarsus 40; middle toe and claw 26; outer 26; inner 24.

Remarks.—The shape of the foot will always distinguish this bird from *Fregetta grallaria*; the form called *F. titan* has the length of the foot about the same, but the shorter inner toe of this form prevents confusion; this bird also has a smaller, more compressed bill than *F. grallaria*, and, of course, much more different from *F. titan*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following description :—

Pteruthius erythropterus yunnanensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Male. Differs from *P. æralatus* (N. Tenasserim) in the grey, not white throat and breast, and by its larger size. Same size as *P. ricketti*, but ear-coverts black, and divided from the grey of the cheeks, etc., by a thin white line; in *ricketti* the ear-coverts are slate-grey, insensibly shading into the grey of the cheeks, etc.

Distribution.—Hills east of Bhamo and east of Myitkyina in Upper Burma; N.W. Yunnan to N. Tonkin.

Type.—Male. Shweli-Salween Divide, N.W. Yunnan, Dec. 1919. Col. Stephenson-Clarke Coll. In Brit. Mus.; Reg. no. 1921.7.15.331.

Measurements.—Male, wing 84–88·5 mm.; *P. æralatus*, male, wing 78–83 mm.

Material examined.—Long series from N. Tenasserim (*P. æralatus*); long series from Fokien (*P. ricketti*); eight from N.E. Burma; three from N.W. Yunnan, three from N. Tonkin.

Note.—Birds from S. Shan States are *P. æralatus*. Probably the form *P. e. yunnanensis* begins to change in N. Tonkin, as the population is there not quite stable, as already noted by Delacour. Dr. Mayr kindly examined material not seen by me in the American Museum of Natural History from N. Yunnan and N. Tonkin and confirms the separation of *P. e. yunnanensis*. I consider all races *P. flaviscapis*, *P. æralatus*, *P. ricketti*, and *P. yunnanensis* to be forms of *P. erythropterus* of the Himalayas.

Messrs. T. H. Harrisson and A. J. Marshall sent the following description of a new species of *Aplonis* from the New Hebrides :—

During the period of 1933–34 when we were members of the Oxford University Expedition to the New Hebrides, considerable attention was paid to the misty, difficult-of-access, moss-forest regions, which usually began at an altitude of about 3000 feet. Here the matted rain-forest, so typical of tropical countries, gives way to a dripping world of mists and rotting vegetation, of scarlet "flame-trees," tree-ferns, patches of tough *Pandanus*-palm, and, above all, a luxuriant flora of mosses, tree-creepers, and epiphytic orchids and pitcher-plants.

General accounts have already appeared in the 'Geographical Journal,' and a general study of the avifauna of these upland regions, as well as an exhaustive summary of lowland work, is in preparation.

Aplonis santovestris, sp. nov.

Strikingly distinguishable from all other members of the genus by its rufous coloration and its altitudinal distribution and habits.

Description.—Female. Blackish head (with trace of brown); dark brown neck; dark rufous-brown back; dark rufous upper tail-coverts; primaries dark brown; secondaries and tertials dark brown with outer edges dark rufous; under wing-coverts paler; throat rufous, breast darker and richer rufous; under tail-coverts warm rufous; tail dark brown. Bill brownish-black with paler tip; gape yellowish; iris grey-green; fleshy parts brown.

Distribution.—Probably confined to the misty uplands of Santo. The bird was not collected by Harrisson on either Omba or Malekula, where he later worked; neither was it seen on Gaua, in the Banks Group slightly north. It seems to have a parallel distribution to *Cichlornis whitneyi*, of which a series of specimens was obtained.

Type.—Female. In the British Museum. Collected on Mt. Watiamasan, N.W. Santo, 4000 feet, on May 25, 1934, by T. H. Harrisson and A. J. Marshall. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.5.15.1.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 96 ; culmen 20 ; tail 55 ; tarsus 28 mm.

Remarks.—A gonad examination revealed the type to be in full breeding condition. It was collected in May 1934.

A male—possibly juvenile—in non-breeding condition is similar, except for a very slightly paler throat and a smaller size in general to the females. Collected in Mt. Tabwemasana (3800 feet) region, November 1933.

A third specimen, also collected on Mt. Watiamasan, is somewhat larger than the type, but its gonad condition was negative and possibly juvenile, and its bill was damaged by shot.

Average measurements for four specimens (one in spirit) are: wing 99 mm. ; tail 55·7 ; culmen 17·3 (3 specimens) ; tarsus 27·7.

So unlike is this bird to the rest of the genus *Aplonis* that a subsequent survey of the group may make it necessary to create a new genus or subgenus. *Aplonis* and its relatives as arranged by Sharpe must be considered very artificial ; the best arrangements seems to be those of Hartert and Stresemann. Dr. Ernst Mayr has recently discussed the limitations and generic characters of the genus *Aplonis* (Mitt. Zoolog. Museum Berlin, vol. ii. p. 335), and we are indebted to him for comparing our material with that in the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.

Aplonis santovestris apparently most closely resembles *A. pelzelni* from Ponape, especially in bill and tarsus. It differs very considerably from *A. rufipennis* of the lowlands, which is a bird of the tree-tops and very scarce in the cloud-belt. The mountain bird is unobtrusive and solitary, and sub-terrestrial in that it is rarely observed higher than fifteen feet, and is completely at home among the rotting stumps and mossy lower foliage.

According to native information, *A. santovestris* nests in a hole of a tree close to the ground, and lays two white eggs. It is usually found singly or in pairs, never in flocks. The Tabwemasana people know it as "Mataweli." It lives on berries, fruits, and seeds. Calls heard were a thin hissing note and an unemotional harsh Thrush-like call. In the bush it sits silently on low boughs and stumps, flitting swiftly

away through the dripping foliage when disturbed. It is wholly a bird of the damp upland jungles ; the natives say that " Mataweli " is afraid of the sun, and so never ventures into the sun-drenched lowlands.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following descriptions of two new races of Arabian birds :—

Otus senegalensis pamelæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Outermost remex about equal to the seventh. Length of wing in the three adult specimens : 147 mm. (type), 147 and 144 in the others, and 140 in one not quite adult. (The wing in *Otus senegalensis senegalensis* is usually well under 140 mm., and never over that.) The character of size is that most relied on ; but the plumage of the Arabian specimen has a more dingy or earthy general appearance when compared with African, and the blackish shaft-streaks are not nearly so heavy and conspicuous in the Arabian as in the African. These remarks apply to juvenile Arabian specimens also when compared with African of the same age.

Type.—In the British Museum. Collected by H. St. J. B. Philby (no. 1224) at Dailami in Wadi Bisha, Arabia, May 26, 1936. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.4.17.1.

Remarks.—The first four specimens sent, an adult (the type) and three juveniles, have already been reported in the ' Bulletin ' (lvii. p. 19). Four more have now been received, collected at Najran in the last days of June and the first days of July, 1936, of which only one is fully adult. But another adult specimen has been found in the British Museum, collected by Bury in the Amiri district north of Aden in 1901. As the Owl is the emblem of the Athenæum Club, of which Mr. Philby is a member, this new race has been named, at his suggestion, after Miss Pamela Lovibond, Librarian of the Athenæum.

Chrysococcyx klaasi arabicus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Female differing from typical African *Chrysococcyx klaasi* in having dark outer rectrices, the outer webs of which have no light spots or only the slightest scarcely visible edge-spots, whereas in all specimens of *klaasi* from Africa,

of whatever age or sex, all rectrices except the two middle pairs are mostly white, with only some dark spots or bars. The Arabian bird has also less white and wider dark bronzy bars on the long thigh-feathers and the under tail-coverts than any of this species from Africa.

Type.—In the British Museum. Female, collected by H. St. J. B. Philby (no. 1907) at Asar (altitude 4500 ft.) near Faifa in Asir, December 28, 1936. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.4.17.2.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 94 mm., tail 71, tarsus 15.

Remarks.—There is also in the British Museum a juvenile specimen of a *Chrysococcyx* collected by Bury at Ichaf, Amiri district, August 2 [1901], that was first identified as *C. cupreus*. Capt. Grant, when working on this genus recently, noticed that Bury's bird was a juvenile *C. klaasi* and not *C. cupreus*. This young bird has the same characters of the tail as Philby's adult (or nearly adult) female. These two seem to belong to a distinct Arabian form, of which the female and juvenile plumages are so like *Chrysococcyx klaasi* that it can be considered as a subspecies of it, at least until the adult male is discovered.

[*Note.*—Mr. G. L. Bates places his new race in the genus *Chrysococcyx* ; but the majority of authors place *klaasi* in the genus *Lampromorpha*.—Editor.]

Prof. Oscar Neumann sent the following descriptions of four new races from Sumatra and the Mentawi Archipelago, all collected by J. J. Menden. The types are now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Hemiprocne comata stresemanni, subsp. nov.

Description.—Male and female. Similar to *H. c. comata* Temminck, but somewhat darker and more washed with olive-green. The gloss of the head and the upper wing-coverts slightly more green and less blue than in *H. c. comata*.

Distribution.—Mentawi Archipelago, west of Sumatra.

Type.—Male, North Pagi Island, Mentawi Archipelago, 10. i. 1934, J. J. Menden leg.

Measurements of a typical series.—Wing 123–127 mm.

Remarks.—Five males and three females from North Pagi Island were compared with six specimens of *H. c. comata* from Sumatra and Malacca. *H. c. major* Hartert from the Philippine Islands agrees perfectly with *H. c. comata* in colour, but is considerably larger.

Named after Prof. Erwin Stresemann, the greatest authority on Oriental Micropodidæ.

Pericrocotus miniatus dammermani, subsp. nov.

Description.—Female differs from the female of *P. m. miniatus*, from Java, by having the larger part of the upperside, viz. interscapular region and back, of a mixture of grey, brown, and pink or rosy-red, while there is scarcely any or but a faint admixture of pink or rosy-red in these parts in the female of *P. m. miniatus*. In the latter race the upperside of the female very much resembles that of the male, being only lighter, more brown, while in *P. m. dammermani* the sexes are very different, also when seen from above.

Distribution.—High mountains of South Sumatra, probably of the whole of Sumatra.

Type.—Female, Gunong Dempu (South Sumatra), at 2500 m., 20. vii. 36, J. J. Menden leg.

Measurements of a typical series.—Male and female, wing 79–82 mm. There is no difference at all between the males of *P. m. dammermani* and those of *P. m. miniatus*.

Remarks.—Two females collected by Menden and two females collected in or near the same region by Jacobson were compared with a series of about twelve females (or perhaps also some young males) from Mt. Gedeh, Papandajan, and Tjerimai in Western Java.

Named in honour of Dr. Dammerman, the Director of the Buitenzorg Museum.

Napothera epilepidota mendeni, subsp. nov.

Description.—In every respect intermediate between *N. e. diluta* (Rob. & Kloss) from the Korinchi and Ophir districts and *N. e. epilepidota* (Temm.) from Western and Central Java. It is much darker than the former, both above and below, but not quite so blackish as the Javan race. It shows a yellowish-red zone on the underside, though not so strong as in the Javan race.

Distribution.—Mt. Dempu, but probably also on all high forested mountains of Southern Sumatra south of the Bengkoelen district.

Type.—Female, Gunong Dempu, at 1800 m., S.W. Sumatra, 21. vii. 1936. J. J. Menden leg.

Measurements of a typical series.—Wing 53–56 mm.

Remarks.—Three specimens from Mt. Dempu were compared with three specimens from Korinchi and Ophir.

In the large chain of races of which *N. e. amyæ* Kinnear from northern French Indo-China is the most northern one, the northern races are the palest, especially on the underside; the races becoming more pigmented towards Sumatra and Java. It appears that no race has yet been recorded from Eastern Java.

Lanius schach sumatræ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Very similar to *L. schach bentet* Horsf. from Western Java, but the frontal bar narrows in most species and always very sharply defined from the grey head. The rufous wash on the rump and the flanks still paler (*cf.* remarks below).

Distribution.—Sumatra.

Type.—Male, Gunong Dempu, S.W. Sumatra, at 1800 m., 28. vii. 1936, J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—To decide the question whether *Lanius schach tosariensis* Kuroda from Eastern Java was really a mere synonym of *L. s. bentet* Horsf., described from Western Java, and to find out how many races of *Lanius schach* might be distinguished in the Sunda Islands, I had brought together forty-one adult specimens from this region, viz., fifteen from Sumatra, twelve from Western Java, four from Eastern Java, seven from Bali, one from Lombok, one from Sumbawa, two from Eastern Timor, and one from Alor.

I found that in the Western Java series about 70 per cent. had a more or less defined frontal bar, while in about 30 per cent. almost the whole cap was black. In Eastern Java the reverse was the case. Therefore, I think, we can let *L. schach tosariensis* Kuroda stand, though it would have been far better to name the Bali population; for of seven Bali specimens six have an almost totally black cap, and so have the specimens

from Lombok, Sumbawa, Alor, and at least the one Timor specimen. This approaches the result arrived at by Dr. Gadow when writing on this species in the 'Catalogue of Birds' vol. viii. pp. 266, 267.

Of the fifteen adult Sumatran specimens from all parts of this island from Atjeh, Deli District, Fort de Kock, Bengkoelen, Von Volack, and Gung Dempu, not one has a wholly black cap, but all exhibit a rather narrow frontal bar, which is sharply defined against the grey head.

In this respect the Sumatran population very much resembles *L. schach caniceps* from Ceylon and Southern India, from which it is distinguished in the first place by the colour of the tail. While in *L. sumatræ*, as well as in *L. bentet* and *L. tosariensis*, only the two outer tail-feathers are greyish-brown, and all the others are black, in *L. caniceps*, as well as in *L. erythronotus*, only the middle pair or the two middle pairs are black, while all other tail-feathers are light greyish-brown. It is deplorable that the first two names are given to the Javan population, with its great variation in specimens, while the Sumatran population and that of the Lesser Sunda Islands to the east of Java shows very little variation.

There is very little variation in size in this great series. The wing measures in Sumatran and in West Javan specimens from 87 to 92 mm., but one male from Deli, Sumatra, has a wing of 96 mm. The sexing seems not to have been correct in all cases, but females seem to be always somewhat smaller than the males. The two Eastern Java specimens are slightly larger—wing 90, 92, 93, and 95 mm. Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, and Alor specimens have wings from 89 to 92 mm., but the two Timor specimens only 86 and 87 mm.

I have to acknowledge the loan of comparison material from Prof. de Beaufort (Amsterdam), Prof. Pax (Breslau), Prof. Laubmann (Munich), Dr. Junge (Leiden), and for valuable information to Dr. Junge and Mr. N. B. Kinnear.

The Marquess Hachisuka sent the following description of Mundy's Yellow Rail from Mauritius: —

Peter Mundy, the only describer and delineator of this flightless Yellow Rail from Mauritius, was born about the year 1596

at Penryn in Cornwall, and is supposed to have died about 1667 in his native town.

The account of his travels, very carefully prepared by himself, has long remained in manuscript and unpublished in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, while there is a second, less complete copy in the British Museum.

The second volume of his Journal, published in 1919 by the Hakluyt Society, contains an account of Mundy's first voyage to India, and proves to us that he was, like François Leguat, one of the most observant and truthful of all the older travellers. On his outgoing voyage in March 1633–34 he passed the island of Mauritius without calling there, but in 1638, when homeward bound from China, he called at the island and wrote a glowing account of the scenery, salubrity, and natural productions.

Mundy figures a strange-looking fowl and calls it "A Mauritius henne." Its description is as follows :—

"A Mauritius henne, a Fowle as bigge as our English hennes, of a yellowi[s]h Wheaten coullour, of which wee gotte only one. It hath a bigge long Crooked sharpe pointed bill, Feathered all over, butt on their wings they are soe Few and smalle thatt they cannott with them raise themselves From the ground.

" There is a pretty way off taking of them with a redde Cappe, butt this strucke with a sticke. They bee very good Meat, and are allsoe Cloven Footed, soe thatt the[y] Can Neyther Fly nor swymme More then the Former.

" Off these 2 sorts off Fowle afformentioned [Mundy first mentions the Dodo, *Raphus cucullatus*], For oughtt wee yett know, Not any to bee Found out off this Iland, which lyeth aboutt 100 leagues From St Lawrence [Madagascar]."

On looking through Mundy's drawings my attention was immediately brought to the accuracy and the extraordinary execution of the natural objects, but the " Henne " is the only composition which looks somewhat elementary, especially in its posture. The reason for this is that Mundy saw only one bird, which he killed, and the drawing must have been made from a dead specimen. The details, however, seem to be true to life.

Mr. W. L. Sclater's article, " The Mauritius Hen of Peter Mundy," Ibis, 1915, pp. 316–319, fig. 5, constitutes the sole

scientific study of this bird, in which it is referred to as *Aphanapteryx broeckii*.

I cannot, however, share this opinion. *Aphanapteryx* has the dark cinnamon red plumage loose like *Apteryx*, with very small decomposed wing-feathers ; it has no tail, while the " Mauritius henne " although short, has proper primaries ; the plumage is yellow, and each feather is not loose and decomposed like that of *Aphanapteryx*. It also has a characteristic Ralline tail.

The " Mauritius henne " therefore belongs to a totally different genus. I propose to call it

KUINA, gen. nov.

Wing small, incapable of flight. Size as big as a hen ; bill long, pointed and decurved ; tarsus and toes heavy and strong, the latter not long, adapted for walking on hard ground ; general colour of plumage yellowish-wheaten.

The generic name is the word for Water-Rail in Japanese.

Kuina mundyi, sp. nov.

Mauritius henne, 'Peter Mundy's Journal,' 1608–1667.

" Mauritius Hen " of Peter Mundy, Sclater, Ibis, pp. 316–319, with fig., 1915.

Mauritius hen, 'The Travels of Peter Mundy in Europe and Asia,' 1608–1667, publ. Hakluyt Soc., vol. iii. p. 352, with fig., 1919.

Distribution.—Mauritius.

Description.—Entire body is yellowish-wheaten colour, that is to say, it is of light buffish-brown on the dorsal part, gradually lightening as it goes to the abdominal part of the body, which is yellowish-buff. In Mundy's drawing each feather has a dark-coloured portion which is probably dark brown. Wing has proper primary feathers, but short and not serviceable for lifting the heavy body from the ground, but it spreads and beats them when the birds make an effort to run fast. I have seen this among the Leysan Island Flightless Rail under captivity. The tail is normally developed, and no doubt moved up and down like that of all the members of the Ralline family. Mandible long, pointed, and decurved ; legs heavy ; toes fairly short, but thick and strong, adapted for hard

cursorial habits. *Kuina* looks altogether like a gigantic fat Corn-Crake (*Crex*) with long pointed bill.

Mr. J. Delacour sent the following note :—

In 'L'Oiseau et la Rev. Franç. d'Ornithologie,' vol. vi. no. 3, p. 377, 1937, I proposed the generic name *Phœonetta* for *Anas erythrophthalma* Wied, Beitr. Naturg. Brasil, iv. 1832, p. 929 (Villa Belmonte, S. Brazil). I had overlooked that it had been used for *Anas fusca* Linn. by Witmer Stone, 'The Auk,' vol. xxiv. 1907, p. 198. I therefore propose the new name

Phœoaythia ; type, *Anas erythrophthalma* Wied.

This peculiar duck differs conspicuously in life from the species of the genus *Nyroca*, with which it has so far been usually united, in its lighter, more elongate proportions, longer neck, and narrower bill. It is more closely related to *Netta* and *Metopiana*. Its distribution in South America and Africa is remarkable.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following seven notes :—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Tyto alba affinis* Blyth, Ibis, 1862, p. 388.

Blyth gives Cape of Good Hope and a reference to Journ. Asiat. Soc. xxix. 1860, p. 100, where the specimen of *Strix flammeus* is listed as having been received from the Government Museum, Cape Town, through E. L. Layard. This specimen is the type of Blyth's *Strix affinis*, and we learn from the Director of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, under date April 8, 1937, that this type is no longer in existence.

The next place this name appears in is Layard's Bds. of S. Africa, 1867, p. 43, where he gives the Cape as a locality. We therefore consider that the exact type-locality of *Tyto alba affinis* Blyth can be fixed as Cape Town, Cape Province, South Africa.

(2) On the Type-locality of *Tyto capensis capensis* A. Smith, S. Afr. Quart. Journ. 2nd ser. 1834, p. 317.

In the 'South African Quarterly Journal' Smith gives South Africa only, but in the 'Illustrations to Zoology,' 1849, pl. xiv.,

he states "obtained near Cape Town." Cape Town can therefore be taken as the exact type-locality of *Tyto capensis capensis* A. Smith.

(3) On the Type-locality of *Carine noctua somaliensis* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 822.

Reichenow gives only Somaliland, but also a reference to Erlanger, J. f. O. 1904, p. 238.

Erlanger lists six birds obtained by him at Arowena, North Somaliland .As Reichenow did not designate a type, he must have based his new name on Erlanger's specimens. We can thus fix the exact type-locality of *Carine noctua somaliensis* Reichw. as Arowena, eastern Abyssinia.

(4) On the Type-locality of *Bubo capensis dillonii* Des Murs & Prévost, Rev. Zool. 1846, p. 242.

This name is based on a specimen obtained by Petit and Quartin-Dillon. Reference to their Vög. en Abyssinie, Zool. vi. 1850, p. 74, shows that this Owl was killed at Ouodgerate.

We can therefore fix the exact type-locality of *Bubo capensis dillonii* Des Murs & Prév. as Ouodgerate, north-eastern Abyssinia.

(5) On the Type-locality of *Bubo africanus cinerascens* Guérin-Ménéville, Rev. Zool. 1843, p. 321.

The usual type-locality is merely Abyssinia. This name was based on a specimen obtained by Petit & Quartin-Dillon. On p. 76 of vol. vi. of their Vög. en Abyssinie, Zool. 1850, we find that this Owl was encountered at Adowa, August 1839 and July 1844, at Gondar in February and March 1840, and at Chiré in September 1840.

We can therefore fix the exact type-locality of *Bubo africanus cinerascens* Guér. as Adowa, northern Abyssinia.

(6) On the Races of Pel's Fishing-Owl, *Scotopelia peli*, Bonaparte.

Zedlitz, O.M. xvi. 1908, p. 172, names two races, thus recognizing three, and gives six points to support this.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 247, recognizes two races, and places *S. salvago-raggii* as a species.

We have carefully examined thirteen adults and one nestling as follows: one from Gabon, one from Nigeria, two from French Equatorial Africa, one from Northern Rhodesia, four from Northern Nyasaland, three from the Zambesi River, and one from Natal. The nestling is from the Cameroons.

All the six characters given by Zedlitz are to be found in all or any of the above specimens, and, moreover, judging by the nestling, the paler birds with narrower markings are not adult. The young in immature dress is represented by three specimens in the British Museum Collection, *i. e.*, one from Nigeria (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1884.1.10.388), one from northern Nyasaland (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1894.5.5.141), and one from the Zambesi (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1863.12.8.34).

Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. iii. 1933, pp. 47–48, also considers that *S. f. fischeri* cannot stand.

We are therefore only able to recognize one species, as follows:—

Scotopelia peli Bonaparte, Consp. Av. i. 1850, p. 44: Ashantee, Gold Coast, West Africa; of which *Scotopelia peli fischeri* Zedlitz, O.M. xvi. 1908, p. 172: Kau, Tana River, Kenya Colony, and *Scotopelia peli salvago-raggii* Zedlitz, O.M. xvi. 1908, p. 172: Middle Tacazzé River, Eritrea, are synonyms.

Distribution.—From Senegal and Eritrea to Angola, Natal, and eastern Cape Province.

(7) On the Type-locality of *Zosterops toroensis* Reichenow.

Miss Cynthia Longfield has very kindly drawn our attention to the correct position of Bwamba.

We have re-examined the maps and agree that Buamba is the same area as Bwamba, now in the Toro area of Uganda, and is situated to the north-west of the Ruwenzori Mountains. The correct type-locality of *Zosterops toroensis* should therefore be Kitamba, Bwamba, north-west of Ruwenzori Mountains, Toro, Uganda. The name given to this bird by Reichenow is, therefore, geographically correct.

Corrigenda to Vol. lvii.

P. 27, line 8, for *H. javonica* read *H. javanica*.
P. 27, line 13, *for* Bernies *read* Bernier.
P. 27, lines 22 and 24, *for* Bart le Frere *read* Bartle Frere.
P. 37, measurements, line 2, *for* 54·4 × 32·5 *read* 50·4 × 32·5.
P. 40, line 10, for *gallingao* read *gallinago*.
P. 44, line 5, *for* 1926 *read* 1936.
P. 49, date of issue, *for* January 5, 1936 *read* January 5, 1937.
P. 64, lines 10, 12, and 13, for *C. collybita* read *P. c. collybita*.
P. 69, line 27, for *M. a maxima* read *M. m. maxima*.
P. 69, line 30, for *M. a. africana* read *M. m. africana*.
P. 80, line 17, *for* Mlulu *read* Mbulu.
P. 121, line 1, for *keyseri* read *keysseri*.
P. 123, line 18, *for* Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 111.721 *read* 41.721.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, October 13, 1937, at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Secretary, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10, on the post-card sent out before the Meeting.

Members who wish to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club should give notice to the Editor, Capt. C. H. B. Grant, 58a Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. The titles of their contributions will then appear on the Agenda published before the Meeting. All MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the Meeting.

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